THE ANGLER'S *Vade Mecum*:

OR,

A Compendious, yet full,

DISCOURSE OF ANGLING:

DISCOVERING

The apreſt Methods and Ways, exacteſt Rules, propereſt Baits, and choiceſt Experiments for the catching all manner of freſh-water Fiſh: peruſed and approved by many exquiſite Anglers, together with a brief Diſcourſe of Fiſh-ponds: and not only the Eaſieſt but moſt Palatable ways of Dreſſing all ſorts of Fiſh, whether belonging to Ponds or Rivers.

By a Lover of Angling.

Per varios uſus Artem experientia fecit.

Inter verba laudantium ſive vituperantium ad mentem & experientiam recurrendum eſt.

LONDON,

Printed for *Tho: Baſſett*, at the *George* near *S. Dunſtans* Church in *Fleet-Street*. 1681.

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THE Preface.

Courteous or Uncourteous Reader,

WHichsoever you are I value not, knowing that kind Words in a Preface are never Charms a proof to anticipate Censure; a Fate all Writers (especially on so inconsiderable a Subject) cannot but expect; yet if a Brother of the Angle reads and prices, better Fortune may be hoped for; as to others, the Book is not only useless, but they indiscreet that Judge and pass Sentence on what they understand not, Tractent Fabrilia Fabri. *The common objection I know will be raised by the Ignorant, that is, what needs any more Writing in this kind?*

since Markham, Walton, Venables, Cotton, *and others, have with so much ingenuity bestowed no small pains herein; (to whose labours and industry I acknowledg this Tract not a little beholding.) Now the old and trite Answer to this Objection must needs be return'd, that a Pigmy mounted on the Shoulders of a Giant may see further then its Supporter; also all Arts are capable of Improvement, none yet being arriv'd to an absolute perfection, and some affirm, that* Angling *like* Mathematicks *can never be so fully learned, but that there will be still more new Experiments left for the Tryal of others that succeed; besides those Authors have discoursed something generally on Angling, whereas this descends to the meanest particular any ways relating thereunto. I purposely forbear to speak any thing (as is usual) in praise of* Angling, *or any ways celebrate it, by telling you what Holy and Illustrious persons have been practisers thereof, or spoken in its commendation: neither shall I enumerate the advantages it has of other Recreations, especially by the smallness of its expence, and its creating*

ing a Calm and sedate temper of Mind; that being an unworthy way of raising its reputation by reflecting with detraction on other Sports, neither could I ever observe that Harangues of that nature ever caused any person to be enamour'd thereon, unless there be a natural propensity in his own Genius thereunto, Anglers *like* Poets *being Born with an innate affection to* Angling, *as* Poets *with an inclination to* Poetry.

As for this little Treatise many persons have contributed much Oyl to its Lamp, else it would never have been able to afford so great a Light; and (without vanity I hope I may say) there are very many things herein never yet published, and not vulgarly known, as also all that ever has been materially Printed concerning Angling, *and that in so concise, regular and brief manner deliver'd, as will not onely render this the usefullest Book, but the most perfect of that kind. You'l find herein no vain or superfluous digressions more apt to inflame the price, than inform the Reader. Be pleased to remember, That*

many

ny of the Rules herein, are general and admit of some exceptions, yet the Angler *may make from thence beneficial Deductions, which if well consider'd will discharge any Indictment of Falsity, the* Angler *otherwise might be incited to prosecute against me; besides, somthings are proposed for him to experiment, and not as infallible Truths; likewise the* Countries, Soils, Rivers, Seasons, Winds, and qualities of the Year are not alike, but differ almost in every place; *to whose great variety the defect or imperfection that appears in any rule ought to be ascribed, especially in Artificial-fly-*Angling: *yet if the* Reader, *peruse this Book deliberately and be but endued with consideration and some Judgment to be gain'd only by practise, the Parent of perfection, hee'l not deny but that all things herein are sincerely Written, and so as on his own frequent Essays hee'l find true, and that the price of this Book is not cast away, since it will in the highest degree conduce to the perfect Knowledg of the exactest way of the Practical part of this Art, for which its onely design'd, and not to fill or perplex the Anglers*

ginous, Hard, with Speculative, Fanciful, Idle, or fabulous notions of Fish *or* Angling. *The Style is plain, and fitted to the meanest Capacity, which I esteemed would best become a Work of this Nature; neither indeed if I would, could I otherwaies have done, because I cannot pretend to be the Master of any Eloquence. Now, but that 'tis usual to follow the beaten path, and that the* Printer *perhaps would be put out of humour, there had been no need of a Commendatory* Preface *to Court any into a good opinion of it; its own Worth will abundantly justify the Work, which on serious perusal and carefull experiments, I doubt not, but the Buyer will be ready and willing to testify for the Vindication as well as Satisfaction of the Author, who hath forborn to annex his Name, not that he is ashamed to own it, but wishes the* Reader *would regard things, more than empty Names, which if all would do, many would not so long labour under such Veils of Ignorance as they do. Permit me therefore the common Liberty of being at this time an Anonymus, many dayly taking it for worse Ends.*

Novemb. 17. 1680. Farewell.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEwly Reprinted *The History of Romish Treasons and Usurpations, together with a particular Account of many most Corruptions and Impostures in the Church of Rome, highly dishonourable and injurious to Christian Religion: To which is prefixt a large Preface to the Romanists. Carefully collected out of a great number of their own Approved Authors.* By Henry Foulis, B. D. late Fellow of Lincoln College in Oxford. *To be sold by* T. Basset *at the* George *in* Fleet-street.

The choicest Hooks *are made by Mr.* Charles Kirby, *in* Globe Court *in* Shoe Lane, London.

THE Anglers VADE MECUM, &c.

CHAP. I.

Of the Angle Rod, and its materials.

When, and what materials to provide for Angle Rods.

1. GAther the materials to make Rods on, as the Hasle, small Crab-tree, Black-thorn, and Yew switches, *&c.* at the 10*th.* of *December*, that being the only time, and get the stocks and tops especially taper, or rush grown, streight, smooth, and

free from knots the pieces of each rod to suit each other in an exact Symetry, otherwise they'l neither cast nor strike well; Bind them in bundles, in the middle whereof put some streight Pole, to keep them from warping or crookning, and let them rest 15 months at least, before used.

Best Rod for ground line in muddy waters.

2. For the ground Angle, especially in muddy waters, the Cane or Reed Rod is best, which should be 4 yards and 9 inches of Cane, and a top of Hasle, and Whalebone of one Yard and half, or an Ell long at least; the stiffness of the Cane is helped by the length and strength of the top, the proportionable bending whereof preserves the Line chiefly, having got a Hasle top an Ell long, cut off 5 or 6 inches at the small end, then piece neatly to the remaining part, a small piece of round, smooth and taper Whalebone, and whip it to the Hasle with waxed Silk; all which will make the Rod to be long, gentle; and not so apt to break; let not the Whalebone be above 6 inches long, and thereunto whip a narrow, but strong noose of hair to put your Line to.

3. If your Hook fasten on Wood or Stones in the water, take out the top, and instead thereof put a stick of Hasle, which hath 2 grains and follow the line therewith until you come

to

to the Hook, (the line running betwixt the grains) and it will loosen the Hook, then take out the stick, and put in the top again.

Best Rod for fly and running-line, in cleer water.

4. A Rod for fly Angling, or running line in a cleer water, for Trout or Grayling, should be of Hazel 6 inches of Whale-bone, 5 yards and half, or 6 yards long; the Hazel of several pieces, taper and proportionably fitted to each other, so neatly piec't together, with fine wax thread below and silk above, as to make it taper, and rush-grown like a switch, and ply with a true bent to the hand.

But the neatest Rod is thus made: get a white Deal or Fir board, that's thick, and free from knots and frets, and ten foot long, let the Arrow-maker divide this with a Saw into several breadths, then with his Planes let him shoot them smooth and rush-grown, or taper-wise, and one of these will be 10 foot of the bottom of your Rod, all in one piece, then piece to it a Hazel 5 foot long, proportioned to the Fir, yet rush-grown (the Hazel may consist of one or two pieces) then to the Hazel piece a piece of Yew, 20 inches long, and to the Yew, a piece of small, round smooth whale-bone, 5 or 6 inches long, & this will be a curious Rod, if artificially work't, be sure that the Deal for bottom be strong; now the whiteness of the Deal, or Fir will scare away

Fish; but you must colour the Fir in this following manner, *viz.* warm the Firr bottom at the fire, when finished by the Arrowmaker; then with a Feather dipt in *Aqua Fortis*, stroak the Rod and with your hand chase it into the Fir, and it will make it a pure Cinnamon colour.

To colour the Fir-stock.

Roch, &c. Rod.

5. Rods for Roch, Dace, Tench, Bream and Carp, *&c.* should not have the top so gentle as one for fly; therefore make their tops pretty stiff, that so the Rod may exactly answer the motion of your hand; for Roch and Dace only nibble, and if you strike not just in that very moment, especially if you Fish with Paste, or any very tender bait, you miss them: because a slender top folds and bends a little with a sudden Jerk.

6. In droughts, steep your Rod in water, a little before you begin to Angle.

7. At top of the Rod or Fin, fix with Shoomakers Wax and Silk, a noose or loop of hair, not large but strong, and very streight to fix your Line to.

Rods length.

8. Generally length of Rod, is to be governed by the breadth of the River you Angle in, but always use a Rod full as long as the River will bear, and let the same be very well mounted.

ed. I never use a Rod under 5 yards and a half long, and I find more advantages by it, than I need to trouble you with here, by telling them, and although I generally Angle in a small River, yet I use one of that length constantly.

Running Line top.

9. Your top for running line must be gentle, that the Fish may more easily, and (to himself) insensibly run away with the Bait, and not be scared with the stiffness of the Rod, and if you make your top of Yew and Whalebone, as before is directed, it will conduce much to this purpose; the Yew though much bended, will quickly return to its former standing.

To preserve Rods.

10. To preserve Hasles whether stocks or tops from Worm-eating, or rotting, twice or thrice in a year, as you think fit, rub them all over with Sallet Oyl, Tallow or sweet Butter, which was never salted, and with much rubbing chase the same into them, and keep your rod dry, least it rot, and not too near the Fire, least it grow brittle.

CHAP. II.

Of Hair and Lines.

What hairs to elect for lines.

1. ELect your hair not from lean, poor or diseas'd Jades, but from a Stone-horse or Gelding at least, that is fat, strong and lusty, and of 4 or 5 years old, and that which groweth from the inmost and middle part of his Dock, and so extendeth it self downwards to the ground, are commonly the biggest and strongest hairs about the Horse, and better than those upon the upper part of, or setting on of the tail, generally best Horses have the best hair.

Colour of hair for lines.

2. Hair of a sorrel or Chess-nut colour is best for ground Angle, especially in muddy waters, that being the colour of Gravel or Sand. The white and gray, or duskish white hair for the Fly, and running line in clear Rivers.

The pale watery green, but not a deep green, for weedy Rivers in the Summer; a black may do well for Rivers that immediately flow from Moffes, and are thereby very black.

3. Some (although I never do) dy their hair of what colour they please, which for a Brown, is thus done, *viz.* Boil

Boil Walnut leaves, and a few Marigolds in Chamber-ly, or in stead thereof water and some Allum in it, and when cold steep the hair therein.

Some say, that the Inner bark of a Crab-tree, boild in water with some Allum, makes a pure yellow Colour, which is only (if at any time) good when the Weeds rot.

4. If you'l have a palewater green, take a pint of strong Ale, half a pound of soot, a little quantity of juice of Walnut leaves, an equal quantity of Allum, put all together in a pot, pan or pipkin, boil them half an hour, being cold put the hair into it, and it will make the hair of a glass colour, or pale green Colour, the longer it lies the deeper's the colour; but if you'l have it rather a deeper green:

Take a Pottle of Allum water, a large handful of Marigold leaves, boil them till a yallow scum arise, then take half a pound of green coperas, as much Verdigrease, beat them into fine pouder, put those into the Allum water, set all to cool, then put in the hair, and let it remain till its deep enough colored, about 12 hours, then take it out, and lay it to dry: Note, that the longer you permit hair to be in it, it will be deeper colored; Some put in the hair while the liquor is hot, but I doubt, that weakens the hair, and indeed so, I think, does any dying.

How to order choose and keep hair.

5. When you get any good hair, immediate-

ly steep it 12 hours in cold Spring Water, then wash and rince it very well from dirt, without straining any hairs; then hang it up to dry 3 or 4 dayes in a Kitching, but far off from the Fire; when perfectly dry, put it in a bag, or case made of Parchment, or Paper, which lay in a box or desk plac'd in a upper room.

How to make Lines.

6. When you make Lines, especially 4 or 5 of the lowermost links, lengths, gildards or toughts (for they are stiled by all these name, in different places) let them be of the best hairs and choose out of the hair such as are of equal bignes, even, round, clear, free from galls, scabs and frets; for such a hair will prove as strong as three uneven, scabby hairs, that are ill chosen, and full of galls, or unevenness: for such commonly stretch altogether, or break altogether, which hairs of an unequal bignes never do, but break singly, and betray the Angler that relies on them, therefore where you get good Hair be choice and sparing of it; and you may make the top of your line, and indeed, all the line, except two yards next the hook, of a courser hair.

7. Never strain or stretch hairs before they be made into a line (as some do) for then they will shrink when used, the strongest and best are easily elected by the Eye.

8. To make the line handsom, and to twist the

the hair even and neat, gives it ſtrength, for if one hair be long and another ſhort, the ſhort one receives no ſtrength from the long one, and ſo breaketh, and then the other, as too weak breaketh alſo: therefore twiſt them ſlowly, and in twiſting keep them from entangling together, which hinders their right pleighting, or bedding together, and twiſt the hairs neither too hard, nor too ſlack, but even ſo as they may twind, and couch cloſe one within another, and no more, without either ſnarling, or gaping one from another; your links may be tyed to each other with a Fiſhers knot, or as ſome call it, a water-knot, which any Angler will teach you to make: the mixing hair and ſilk I eſteem no wayes advantagious to lines.

9. When you have twiſted your links, lay them in cold water for one hour, then twiſt them over again before you tye them into a line, otherwiſe a hair or two will ſhrink, and be ſhorter than the reſt at firſt fiſhing with it, which is ſo much of the ſtrength of the line loſt, for want of firſt watering, and then twiſting it.

10. Do not arm, fix or whip Hooks to any Line, either for ground or fly Angling, that conſiſts of more than three or four links, at the moſt, but if the hair be long, and the lowermoſt link conſiſts of three hairs, then you may whip to one that conſiſts of two links only: the top of the uppermoſt link having a ſmall water nooſe or loop, you may to any line put the ſame, and as eaſily remove it.

Length

Length of Dub-fly Line.

11. Your Line for Dub-fly, Cast-fly, or Artificial-fly (which are all one and the same) should be almost twice the length of the Rod, if the River be not encumbred with wood or trees on its Banks, if so, let it be shorter, but longer than the Rod, and let the hair be a white, or a darkish white colour.

Thickness of Cast-fly Lines.

12. To Angle for Trouts, Graylings, and Salmon-Smelts, (no bigger than a very large Gudgeon) with the Dub-fly, let the two first links next hook, be but of one hair a peice, but the hair must be strong and of the thicker ends only, and chosen for the purpose, the next link of two hairs, and next to that must consist of three hairs, at top whereof have a water noose or loop to put to your line, whose low'rmost link consists of three hairs, and has another Water-noose at bottom, to fix your fly of three or four links too, then let your next link of your line be four hairs, and so proceed by encreasing one hair until you come to six or seven hairs at the top, let the single hair and the two next links be of a white or darkish white, or rather a white blew colour.

13. But many think this too small, especially where there are very large Trouts, and therefore

fore for Caſt-fly Angling, conſtantly adviſe two of the firſt link next Hook, to be of two hairs a piece, the next above them of three hairs, to which have a water nooſe, then two or three hairs a piece, and then proceed with four, five and ſix to the topmoſt.

14. Others there are, and good Anglers too, that adviſe the two links next Hook, to conſiſt of three hairs a piece, then one of four, at top whereof to have a water nooſe, then four, five, ſix and ſeven to the topmoſt link, which I like very well, if the River abound with large Trouts, and the water either be clearing after Rain, or be very full, or ſwelled more than uſually. Now ſince you have all directed, make choice according to your skill, practice and dexterity; moſt when they Angle with three hairs next Hook, make a water nooſe on the top of the ſecond link.

Your Lines thus made, will cauſe the Rod and Line, to be in a manner taper, from the very hand to the Hook, and the line to fall much better and ſtreighter, and caſt your fly or bait to any certain place your Hand and Eye ſhall direct, with leſs weight and violence, that would otherwiſe circle the water and fright away Fiſh.

Length and thickneſs of a line for running worm in a clear water.

15. Anglers differ in opinion about the length of

of Running worm line in a clear water, for Trouts or Graylings, some would have it longer than rod, others length of rod, and a third sort, a yard shorter than rod, which I, by my own Experience, best approve of; although each of these lengths of line may in some Rivers and seasons be more proper than other: as the line longer than rod, when the water is exceeding bright, and low is best: for thickness, let the 2 or 3 lowermost links or lengths be of one hair a piece, and then proceed as is before directed for cast line: but let no part of this line be above 4 hairs in thickness in any one link. Let the Colour of the hair be a white blew color or a white dusky color, not perfectly white.

Vide Sect 12. of this Chapter.

Length and thickness of Running line for mud water.

16. Let the Line for running worm in muddy water, the 3 lowermost links, at least, be of Chesnut or Sorrel colour, and from hook upward, the thickness of the line before directed at the 14 *Section* of this Chapter, and but half length of Rod.

Float or Cork lines length & thickness.

17. The Line for Float Angle should be made as that directed at the 14 Section of this Chapter

Chapter for thickneſs, but ſhould be as long or rather longer than the Rod for Rivers, but ſhorter then the Rod for Pitts, Ponds, Meares, and ſtanding Waters, and the colour of three or four lowermoſt links, according to the colour of the water, that is a Cheſs-nut or Sorrel colour, for a muddy water, but a white or grey for cleer waters.

Dibbing line.

18. Dibbing line ſhould be of the ſame length, and thickneſs of a line for running worm, in a muddy water, and the hair of a white colour, or it may be a hair or two thicker, becauſe little of the line comes in the water, and ſometimes it may be as long as the Rod, or near it.

19. I have often for Ground Angle made my links of three Hairs, to conſiſt of two hairs of a ſorrel or cheſnut colour, and one of white, ſometimes 2 white hairs and one of Cheſnut or ſorrel colour and do like it very well.

20. At the bottom of every line have a ſmall water nooſe or loop, that you may hang a Hook of any ſize, whipt to a line, conſiſting of two or three links, or change your Hook and two or three lowermoſt links as you pleaſe: If it be a line of one hair next Hook, let the nooſe be at a link of 3 hairs, if a line for 3 hairs next Hook, let the water nooſe be at a link conſiſting of 4 hairs.

I have been the more preciſe in deſcribing the Lines; becauſe many Anglers underſtand them

them not, and to their prejudice are not a little careless therein.

Trowling Line.

21. Let the Trowling line be made of 4 or 6 fold of Hemp Yarn, finely spun, of the best Hemp, and let the folds be neatly twisted together, its length should be 15 or 16 yards, and have also 2 yards next the hook of strong silk and neatly made.

CHAP. III.

Of Hooks, Floats, Leading Lines, Plums, and the rest of the *Anglers* Tackle.

THE best Hooks are made by one Mr. *Denton*, that lives about *Barnsley* in *York-shire*, and by *John Perkin* and *William Perkin*, that live in *Sadleworth* in *York-shire*, which 3 persons are very excellent *Trout Anglers*.

Hooks.

The Wyer of the Hooks should be small and such as will not stretch, the points so well tem-

temperd, that they will not become dull with Fishing, but still preserve their keeness, all which *Dentons* Hooks will perform.

The *London* Hooks are of too thick a wyer, and of a compass that may suit a River abounding with Weeds, by reason of their compass or bent, they may more easily be loosed when entangled with Weeds, which is all they are good for. I totally reject them in fishing with Dubfly or in stoney Rivers, by reason they will quickly become dull.

2. Let the Hooks be long in the shank, and of a compass somewhat enclining to roundness, but the point must stand even and straight, and the bending must be in the shank, for if the shank be straight, the point will hang outward though when set on it stand right, yet it will after the taking of a few Fish, cause the hair at the end of the shank to stand bent, and consequently the point of the Hook to hang directly upwards.

3. Whether you Angle at top or bottom, proportion your Hooks for strength and compass, to the number of the Hair or Hairs you Angle with next Hook.

Whipping Hooks.

4. When you set on the Hook, which is stiled (arming, fixing or whipping of Hooks) do it with small but strong silk, well rubbed with Shoomakers Wax, and lay your hair on the inside

ſide of the Hook, for if on the outſide, the ſilk will cut and fret it aſunder, and it is not ſo apt to ſtrike Fiſh; and to avoid the fretting of the hair by the hook on the inſide, ſmooth all the hook on a whetſtone, from the inſide to the back of the hook ſloop-ways, and from a ſtraw bredth below the top of the hook, wrap the ſilk about the bare hook until you come to the top of the ſhank, then lay your line on the inſide and whip with your ſilk downwards until you arrive almoſt at the bent of the hook, and then cut off the end of the Gildard, and faſten.

Whip your hooks, for Angling with Worm, with red colored ſilk, but for paſte, cod-bait, and other whitiſh baits, with white colored ſilk, and ſome do it with a white or red hair, and ſome with flax, or hemp: but ſtrong and ſmall ſilk I like beſt.

How to arm a briſtled hook, you will ſee hereafter, when we diſcourſe of Cod-baits.

Proportion of Hooks.

Hooks for Dub-fly generally ſhould be ſmall, ſo for Cod-bait; but larger for worm, yet I like not Angling at worm, with ſo large a hook as ſome do.

Floats.

5. Floats ſhould evermore be of Cork for Rivers, but quill and Pens are beſt for Pits, Ponds,

Ponds, and ſtanding waters, (being not able to bear the ſtrong ſtreams in Rivers) and Angling near top in very ſlow Rivers, and eſpecially with Paſte or tender Baits.

6. Obtain the beſt Cork you can without Flaws or holes, bore the Cork through with a ſmall hot Iron, then put into it a quill of a fit proportion, neither too large to ſplit it, or ſo ſmall to ſlip out, but as it may ſtick in very cloſely: then pare (either with a ſharp Penknife or Raſor) the Cork into the form of a Pyramid, ſmall Pear, Egg or Nutmeg, and into what bigneſs you pleaſe, then upon a ſmall Grindſtone, or with a Pumice ſtone, make it compleat, for you cannot pare it ſo ſmooth as you may grind it: have Corks of all ſizes.

7. After you have ſhaped your Cork, bore with a ſmall hot Iron, a hole from end to end, through the midſt thereof, into that hole thruſt a quill, and cut the Quill off even with the Cork at each End, and through the Quil draw the line, and faſten them both together with a wedg of the uppermoſt hard end of the Gooſe Quill, the feather being ſtript off, let the Wedge be two inches long, and white, which will be beſt diſcernable; then place the ſmaller end of the Cork towards the hook, and the bigger towards the rod? that the ſmaller end ſucking down with the hook; the bigger may float aloft, and bear the Wedg directly erect, which when pull'd under the ſurface of the Water; is the certain ſignal of the fiſhes bi-

ting, unless by accident the hook or line become entangled, or stayed by some stone, piece of wood or weeds.

8. Cork in form of a Nutmeg, or Egg being biggest in the middest, and small at each end, is a little apter to sink, and will not carry so weighty a plum of Lead, yet on clear bottoms, and Angling with bait some distance from ground, in slow Rivers, it will do very well and better than others.

9. Furnish your self with Corks and Quills of all sizes, and let the Cork be so poised with Lead on the Line, that the Quill which is in it, being almost 2 inches long, will swim upright, and so equally ballanced with the Lead, that the least bite or nibble will sink the Cork.

Leading Lines.

10. For leading Lines, I account the small round pellet or Lead-shot best, especially for stony Rivers and running Line, let it be cloven and neatly closed about your Line, and let not above two plumbs be on the Line at once, an inch and a half, or two inches distant from each other, and the lowmost plumb 9 inches distant from the Hook, for a running Line either in a clear or muddy water, but a foot of hook for a float line: but if the River run on a sandy bottom, and be full of Wood, with few Stones, Plumbs or Lead in shape of a Diamond, or of a Barley Corn, or of an Oval form is best, the ends

ends smooth and close laid down, either for a muddy water or float Angling, many when they Angle amongst weeds, place their Lead on the shank of the hook, and conceive it not so apt to entangle on them.

11. When you Angle with the running line, let the line have as much Lead as will fit the Stream and River in which you Angle, and no more, *viz.* more in a great troublesome water than in a smaller that is quieter, as near as may be, so much as will sink the Bait to the bottom and will keep it still in motion, and no more; This Rule is also to be observed in float Angling in Rivers. Some cover their Lead on float Line with Shoo-makers Wax as thin as may be.

12. As the day encreases, your pellet or plumb may be lesser, for that will carry readily at 5 a Clock in the morning at running line, which will sink and fasten the Line at 9 a Clock: for in droughts Rivers generally abate, as heat encreases.

Lead Plummet.

13. In a Pistol Bullet, make a hole through it, and put therein a strong Thread twisted, and when occasion is, hang this on the hook to try the depth of the River or Pond, especially when you Angle with the float, and the Bait is to be near the bottom, or but just touch it.

Whetstone.

14. Procure a little Whet-stone about two inches long, one quarter of an inch square, which is far better to whet or sharpen Hooks on than a File, though never so fine or good, for it either will not touch a well-temper'd hook, or leave it rough but not sharp, and we always to avoid the fretting of the hair by the Hook, smooth all the Hook upon a Whetstone, from the inside to the back of the Hook slope-ways.

15. Get a Case made of red Leather like a Comb Case, with 12 or 14 partitions therein, made of the finest thin Parchment, with a flap to cover over the edges to prevent loosing any thing out of them, in the several partitions keep Hooks ready whipt to Lines of 2 or 3 gildards in length, and leaded likewise, spare links, lines of all sorts, silk of all sorts and colours, hair and single strong hairs, hooks. These Cases contain much, and lye in a small room in the Pocket; in one of these Cases you may put all your tackle ready fixt for the running line in muddy and clear water, in another all the tackle for the ground Angling with float, in another the Angling tackle for great Fish, as Chub, Barbel, great Salmon, in another which must be made large, your Angling tackle for Pike; so that when you Travel from home you may Angle any where for most sorts of

Fish

Fish at ground, if you carry but a good Rod with you, made of Hazel, and the pieces put into each other, and will serve for a walking staff, which you may buy ready made in *London*, and other places.

How to keep Cod-baits, &c.

16. Bags of Linnen and Woollen, to keep and carry all sorts of Baits in, also a piece of Cane with holes bored therein, to keep Catterpillars, Palmers, Woolbeds, natural Flies and Bobs in, a Horn for Gentles. Boxes of divers sizes to carry Hooks, Silk, Lead, Thread, Corks, floats of Quills, Shoo-makers Wax, Dub-flies, and also have a sharp Pen Knife. The following way is esteemed a Secret, and the best way to carry and keep Cod-baits, Catterpillars, Clap-bait, natural Flies and Oak-worm in; for to give Cod-baits water, is soon to rot them, because they are as well kept in a piece of withy Bark, that some of them will live therein to be turned to Flies: 'tis thus, Cut a round bough of fine green barkt Withy, about the thickness of half ones Arm, and taking the Bark clear off, about a foot in length, turn both ends together from the middle, and let them enfold within each other, and then tie it with a string on the top, and stop it with a Cork or piece of Stick: in this put the aforesaid Baits, and every Night lay it in the Grass, and use it next day, or let it lie until you have occasion for them: the Dew

preſerves them, and makes them ſcour and thrive; thus you may keep Cod-baits, Graſshopers, *&c.* for the moiſture of the Bark contributes much to their preſervation, but bore ſmall holes in it for their better reſpiration, notwithſtanding the Bark is very porous.

Landing Net.

17. Have a ſmall long Pole, made with a loop at the end, like a water-hooſe, to which faſten a ſmall Net to Land great Fiſh, without which you will be in danger to looſe them: but if you Angle for Pike, Barbel, Chevin, get a large Hook, called a Landing Hook, with a ſtrew at the end to skrew into a ſocket, fixed at the end of a long Pole, to ſtrike into the mouth or any part of the Fiſh, to draw them to Land: You may alſo fit to the ſame ſocket and pole, 2 other hooks, one ſharp to cut Weeds away, the other to pull out Wood.

Panier.

18. Let the Panier be light, made of peel'd Willow Twigs, neatly wrought.

Materials for the Angler to carry with him.

19. Carry with you all ſorts of Hooks, Lines, Links ready twiſted Hair, Silk of divers colours,

lours, small but strong, Thread, Leads, Plumets, Floats of all sorts and sizes, Shoo-makers Wax, Pen-knife, Whet-stone, Line Cases, Worm-bags, Boxes, Hooks ready fixt to Lines of 2 or 3 gildards or lengths, Rod, Baits, Flies, Panier, Dubbing bag, Horn for Gentles, a small but sharp pair of Scissors.

CHAP. IV.

Of BAITS.

1. HAving instructed our Angler with what Tackle to be accoutred, the next Discourse directs him how to find, order, manage, keep and preserve all sorts of natural Baits: First, he is to observe that Earth worms are a general Bait for all sorts of Fish whatsoever, and that they and Gentles continue in season the whole Year, the Earth-bob from Martynmas until almost *May*-day, and the Cowturd-bob from *May*-day until Michaelmas, Flies, Palmers or Wool-beds, Catterpillars, Cod-bait, Worms bred on Herbs or Trees, as the Oak-worm, *&c.* all Summer, and know that when one sort of Baits come in season, the preceeding are not useless, and whensoever you Angle at ground in clear water, have both Earthworms, Cod-bait, Gentles and Bobs with

you, and in more likelyhood Succeſs will attend your Labours: But if you go to Angle for Trout in a muddy water, with running Line, you need only take Brandlings, Gilt-tails, Tag-tal and Meadow-worm with you: if the three laſt are not to be eaſily got, then Brandlings only, and you may have ſome ſcowred only in moſs and water, others as is directed, with Riddle, and others with Grave earth; for ſometimes they will take the Worm kept one way, and ſometimes the other, and that all on the ſame day, and in 2 hours ſpace. Of Worms there are divers ſorts, ſome bred in the Earth, and therefore called Earth-worms, or Worms ſimply without any addition, ſuch are the Dew-worm, Red worm, Brandling, Gilt-tail, Tag-tail and Meadow worm; others are bred on Herbs, Plants or Trees, as Palmers or Wool-beds, Catterpillers, Oak worm, and Cabbage or Colewort worm: Others on Excrements, or ſome dead Fleſh, as Gentles, *&c.* of all which this Chapter treats.

Dew-worm, Garden-worm, Lob-worm or Twatchell.

2. Are but one Worm, although called in different places by all the ſaid names; and its the principal Worm for Salmons, Chevins, Trouts, Barbels and Eels that are of the greateſt ſize, but for ſmaller Fiſh, tho' of the ſame ſpecies, its not ſo proper; of theſe, ſome be cal-

called Squirrel-tails, which has a red head, a ſtreak down the back and a broad Tail, and theſe are eſteemed the beſt, becauſe they are toughest, moſt lively, and live longeſt in the Water, for with a dead Worm you are in all probability to catch little or nothing. This Worm is found in a Garden or Church-Yard, late in a Summers Evening, with a Lanthorn.

Brandling, Gilt-tails, and Red-worms,

3. Are the principal Worms for all ſorts of Fiſh, and are generally to be found in old Dung-hills, or ſome very rotten place near to them, but uſually in Cow Dung, or Hogs-Dung rather than Horſe-dung, which is ſomewhat too hot and dry for them, but the beſt are to be found in Tanners bark, which they caſt up in heaps after they have uſed it about their Leather. Theſe, eſpecially the two firſt, are the prime Worms Anglers uſe for Trouts, Graylings, Salmon ſmelts, Gudgeon, Flounder, Pearch, Tench and Bream; Theſe 3 laſt take the red-Worm well ſcoured, very well: The Brandlings and Gilt-tails are taken by Trouts and Graylings, both in muddy and clear waters, but the red worm beſt in muddy waters. Some ſay the Brandling is the beſt Worm for a Trout, others the Gilt-tail; but if you Angle with two Worms on the Hook at once, as is generally uſed for Trouts in muddy waters, then put

both

both a Brandling and Gilt-tail on the Hook at once, the Gilt-tail the latter.

Marsh or Meadow worms

4. Are got out of Marsh ground, or the fertile banks of Rivers, and is a little blewish, and should be well scowred, and then its both tough and sprightly. 'Tis a choise Worm in *March*, *April*, and *September*, for Trouts, Salmon Smelts, Gudgeon, Grayling and Flounder.

Tagtail

5. Is a Worm of the colour of a mans hand, or a pale flesh colour, with a yellow tag on his tail, about half an inch long; They are found in Marled Lands or Meadows, after a shower of Rain, or in a morning in weather that is calm, not cold, in *March* and *April*, its a very good Worm for Trouts, and there are Anglers that affirm that there is not a better Bait in the World for a Trout, if you Angle with them whilst the Water is discoloured by Rain; some commend it likewise for a Grayling.

6. Note, that Dew-worm, Red-worm, and Meadow-worm will abide more scowring than any other of the before mentioned Worms, and are better for long keeping.

How

How to Order, keep, and scour Worms.

7. Put your Worms into very good long Moss, whether white, red or green is not much material, but the soft white Moss that grows on some Heaths is best (but it is difficult to be found in some Places and Countreys,) wash it well, and cleanse it from all earth and filth, wring it very dry, then put your Moss and Worms into an earthen Pot, cover it close that they crawl not out, set it in a cool place in Summer, and in Winter in a warm place, that the Frost kill them not; every third day in Summer change the Moss, once a week in the Winter: The longer you keep them, especially the Log-worm, Marsh-worm and Red-worm, before you use them, the better: Some mingle Camomil or Fennel with the Moss. Clean scowring Worms, makes them redder, clearer, tougher, sprightlier, live long on the Hook, and keep colour, and consequently more desirable by Fish. If you be in hast, a little Bole armoniack put to them will further your desire, and make them scour in a short time: Or you may put the Dew-worm and Red-worm 4 or 5 hours in water, and they will scour themselves, but be very weak, yet a few hours in good Moss will recover them. Then observe when the knot near the middle of the Brandling begins to swell, he's sick, and if not well looked to, is near Death; but lest they Die,

you

you may feed them with crumbs of Bread and Milk, or fine flower and milk, or the Yolk of an Egg and sweet Cream coagulated over the Fire; give them a little and often.

Or if you be in haste, put your Bradlings, Gilt-tails, &c. into Moss that is exceeding wet, and it will quickly scour them, but not keep them long, but when you go to Angle, remove them into Moss out of which the water is well wrung or squeezed.

Some wet their Moss very well in sweet Milk or Alewort (in which there hath been no Hops,) and then squeeze it pretty well, and over-night put the Worms therein they intend to use the next day, and think Fish like them better; but the Worms must not rest long in Moss thus wet in Milk or Alewort; in regard it will much swell them, and in 24 hours spoil them; but if you put them in fresh Moss and Water it will well revive them.

Others, and expert Anglers keep them in Moss and good store of Earth cast out of a Grave; the less time the party hath been Buried the better, and put them in fresh Moss and some of this Earth when they go to Angle, and those that use this much, boast of its excellency in alluring Fish.

I know some ingenious Anglers, that in the Spring, and for a muddy water, use to shave Riddle or red Oker (with which people in *Lancashire* use to mark their Sheep) into the Moss they keep their Worms in, and sometimes those

baits

baits will be taken eagerly, when the brighter, (that is those kept in Moss and Water only) will not at all be taken, and perhaps within an hour again the bright ones will be taken, and the radled worms refused. Now since all ways are discovered to you for keeping and ordering your Worms, elect that way which Experience assures you to be the best; only this let me observe, That if I could otherwise help it I would never have my Brandlings and Gilt-tails kept in Moss, and the water well squeezed out of it (which way I only use) less than 48 hours, or above 8 days, but I often Angle with them when they are not scoured above 16 hours, but 'tis not so good.

Palmer worm, Palmer fly, and Wool-bed.

8. Are all one Worm, bred on Herbs and Trees, and is, if not a perfect Catterpillar, yet a species thereof; These are rough and woolly on the outward parts, hence by some called Wool-beds, and are good Baits either for Trout, Chub, Grayling or Dace, Palmer fly and May-fly are the very ground of all Fly Angling.

Catter-

Catterpillars, Oak worm, Cabbage worm, Colewort-worm, Hawthorn-worm, or Grub, Crabtree-worm, or Jack,

Are Worms bred on Herbs or Trees, and may be kept with the Leaves of those Trees, or Herbs on which they are bred, by renewing the Leaves often in a day, and putting in fresh instead of the old ones; the Boxes they are kept in should have a few small holes bored therein to let in the Air: But you may keep them best as is already directed, *cap.* 3, *sect.* 16. in Withy Bark.

These are good Baits for Chub, Roch, Dace, Trout, *&c.* and fish bite much better at the Oak-worm, or any Worm bred on Herbs or Trees, if you Angle with the same when they shew themselves on the top of the water (as with the natural Fly) than if you use it under for when a gale of wind shaketh the Trees the Worms fall into the water, and presently rise and float on the top, where fish rise at them as at Flies; and indeed they sink not, till tost and beaten by the Waves or Stream, and then they dye and lose their native colour, and then the fish (as you may perceive by those on your hook) value them not, although these sort of Baits are taken by Roch, Dace and Chub well at the top of the Water, yet you may Angle 9, 18 inches or lower within the water, and they

do very well, or you may put one on the point of a dub-fly hook, and dib with it, or dib with the Ash-fly and one of these on the point of the Hook for Trouts. The Oak-worm is a very good Bait, and of a fine green colour, and in Ponds is a Murtherer of Roch and Dace.

To get these Baits, beat on an Oak, Crabtree or Hawthorn that grows over an High way or bare place, and they'l fall for you to gather; or go to Cabbages, or Coleworts, &c. and there seek for them.

Some think the Palmer-worm, Carerpillar, &c. are bred from a Dew left on the leaves of Trees, Herbs or Flowers, Coleworts or Cabages, which being condensed by the Suns generative heat, do in three days become living Creatures, of several shapes and colours, some bearded and tough, some smooth and soft, some horned in their head, some in their tail, some have none; some have hair on them, some none; some of them are bred of the eggs or spawn of the Catterpillars, and in time turn to Butterflies; and generally all Flies being bred of putrefaction, receive Life or vivifie as the Suns heat furthers or disposes the Seminal virtue, by which they are bred unto animation.

Bobs

Are of two sorts, the one found or bred in mellow, restly, heathy, sandy, light soils, and ga-

gathered after the Plow, when the Land is first broken up from Grazing (and is call'd the Earth-bob, white-grub or white-bait,) and is a Worm as big as two Maggots, hath a red head, and is all soft and full of whitish Guts; you may easily know in what ground most are, for there the Crows will be watchful and follow the Plow very close, or you your self may dig one spade graft deep for them in sandy, heathy ground that has lain long rest from the Plow, and find sufficient of them.

White Grub and White bait.

These are a choice Bait from the 1 of *November*, until after mid *April* for Chub, Roch, Dace, Salmon smelts, Trout, Bream and Carp.

When you gather these; put them into a Pot or Firkin, with sufficient of the Soil they were bred in, to preserve them, then stop the Vessel exceeding close, or all will spoil, set it where neither Wind nor Frost may offend them, and they will keep all Winter for use.

Some, in the morning they go to Angle, boil those they intend to use that day, in Milk or Water, one or two minutes, and then pour them on a Sieve; but they'l not keep after boyling above 2 days: in like manner you may boil the brood of Wasps, Hornets, Humble Bees, *&c.* some put these Baits in a little Earth and Hony the day before they Angle with them for Carp or Bream, which boyling makes them tough, plump and white.

Eol

Cow-turd bob, or Clap-bait.

10. The other Bob is found under a Cow-turd (from about *May* day, until about *Michaelmas*) that rests on such a ground as the other is found in, and is also called a Clap-bait in some places; 'tis an excellent Bait for Trout if you Angle with it as a Cod-bait is used on the top of the water with a bristled hook, only you may sometimes put a pair of Wings and head, such as is used for Dub-fly, on the top of the Hook. This Bait is almost like a Gentle, but bigger and is kept in wet Moss, but above 2 or 4 days it will not keep, it may be kept as Codbait is, at *chap.* 3. *sect.* 16. in withy Bark.

Fish of all sorts likewise take the Clapbait within water, as the Chub, Trout, Grayling, Roch, Dace, Carp, Tench, *&c.* I think for Trout and Smelt, you may imitate it with yellow Wax.

Codbait, Cadisworm, Cadbait or Caseworm

11. Are all one and the same Bait, and of these there are two sorts, some say 3, one bred under Stones that lie a little hollow in shallow Rivers, or small Brooks, in a very fine Gravelly Case, or Husk, these are yellow when ripe; the other in Pits, Ponds, slow running Rivers, or Ditches, in Cases or Husks of Sticks, Straws,

or Rushes. Both are excellent for Trout and Grayling, and most sort of Fish, as Carp, Tench Chub, Roch, Dace and Bleak.

The green sort bred in Pits, Ponds, and Ditches, are found in *March* before the yellow ones come, the other yellow sort come in *May*, or the end of *April*, and are out of season in *July*, a third sort, but smaller, come in again in *August*.

12. These Codbaits cannot endure the Wind and Cold; therefore keep them in a thick woollen bag with some Gravel amongst them, wet them once a day if in the House, but oftner in hot weather; when you carry them forth, fill the bag full of water, then hold the mouth close that they drop not out; and so let the water run from them; thus they have been kept three weeks; or you may put them in an earthen Pot full of water, with some Gravel at the bottom, and take them forth into your bag as you use them, but the best way of keeping them is as before is directed at *cap.* 3. *sect.* 16.

Various ways of Angling with the Cod-bait.

13. One may Angle several ways with Cod-baits, either at bottom with a float, or within a foot of the bottom, at mid-water or at top; but if in a clear water for the Trout or Grayling, use fine and smallest Lines almost length of Rod, and very light Leaded, if within

water. Sometimes you may (when you use a float) put on 2 or 3 together, and sometimes Cod-bait to very great effect is joyned with a Worm, and sometimes to an Artificial Fly to cover the point of the Hook; sometimes its put on the point of the Hook after an Oak fly, and then they dib with it, or, which I like better, to let them sink 9 or 10 inches within the water, continually raising, and gently moving it. And some say Cod-bait when used by it self is always to be Angled with at the bottom, and with the finest tackle, and that it is for all times of the Year the most holding Bait of all other whatever, both for Trout and Grayling: Others there are that affirm The best way to Angle with Codbait, is to Fish with it on the top of the water for Trout or Grayling, as you do with the Fly, and it must stand on the shank of the Hook, as doth the Artificial Fly (for if it come into the bent of the Hook, the Fish will little or not at all value it, not if you pull the blew gut out of it) and to make it keep that place, you must when you set on or whip your Hook, fasten a stiff Horse hair, or Hogs Bristle under the Silk with the end standing out about a Straws breadth at the head of the hook, from under the silk, and pointing towards the Line, and this will keep it either from slipping totally off, and from sliding back into the bent of the hook, by which means your Whipping would be left naked and bare,

This is called a bristled hook when thus armed or whipt.

bare, and is neither so sightly, nor so likely to be taken, to remedy which (because it often so falls out) some always whip the Hook they design for this Bait with the whitest Horse hair, which it self will resemble and shine like that bait, and consequenely do more good or less harm than whipping with Silk or any other colour; Thus used its an excellent bait for a Trout. You may if you please place a small slender Lead upon the shank of the Hook, to sink the bait, and draw the Codbait over the Lead.

Artificial Codbait.

You may make for Trouts and Salmon smelts, an Artificial or Counterfeit Cod-bait, by making the body of yellow Bee Wax, and the head of black Silk, and a little dubbing black; This you must be often raising from the bottom and let it sink again, or you may do it by making the body of yellow Wash Leather, or rather Shammy or *Buff*, and the head of black Silk. In a muddy water, Trouts will not take the Codbait, therefore only Angle with them in clear waters.

Codbait is a very excellent *Bait* both for Trout and Grayling, and likewise for other Fish, as Chub, Roch, Dace, Salmon smelts, Pearch, Carp, Tench and *Bleak*; if you imitate the Cod-bait with yellow *Bee-Wax*, and make the head of black

Some persons make the counterfeit Codbait of yellow Bees-Wax, and an artificial

tificial dubb'd head, and a pair of Wings at the head, and Angle therewith as at dub-fly.

black dubbing, and black silk, and perform the same very artificially, its an incomparable Bait for Trouts and Salmon smelts: some make use of a piece of a small yellow Wax Candle to imitate the Cod-bait, and put a dubt head and wings on top of the Hook.

Bark-worm or Ash-grub

14. Are all one and the same; and is plump, milk-white, bent round from head to tail, and exceeding tender, with a red head resembling a young Dore, or Humble Bee; its in season all the year, especially from *Michaelmas* until mid *May* or *June*. Its the most proper Bait save any but the Fly and Cod-bait for the Grayling; but Chub, Roch and Dace will likewise take it.

Its found under the Bark of an Oak, Ash, Alder or Birch, especially if they lye a year or more after they are fallen: likewise its found in the body of a rotted Alder; if you break it with an Ax, but be careful only to shake the Tree in pieces with beating, and crush not the Worm, you may also find it under the Bark of the Stump of a Tree, if decayed.

He is very tender, therefore to be baited on such a bristled hook as before is directed for the Cod-bait, and hee's to be baited thus, *viz.* the hook is to be put in under the head or chaps

of the bait, and guided down the middle of the belly, without suffering it to peep out by the way, (for then it will issue out water and milk, till nothing but the skin remain, and the bent of the Hook will appear black through it) till the point of the hook come so low, that the head of the bait may rest and stick on the bristle that comes out to hold it, by which means it can neither slip of it self, neither will the force of the Stream, nor quick pulling out on any mistake, strip it off. This bait is usually kept in bran, and thereby grows tougher.

How to Angle for a Grayling with an Ash-grub.

For Grayling you are to Angle with this bait with the smallest Lines, such as is directed for a Trout, with a running line in a clear water, and you are always to use a small Float, and the least weight of plumb or Lead you can, that will but sink, and that the swiftness of the Stream will allow, and your Bait is always to be 5 or 6 inches from the bottom; but for other Fish, as Chub, Roch, Dace, you may use Lines and Tackle proper for them, and Angle as is suitable for their humor.

Flag-worm, or Dock-worm

15. Are all one, to find them do thus: Go to an old Pond or Pit where there are store of Flags (or as some call them Sedges,) pull some up by the roots, then shake those roots in the water

water, till all the mud and dirt be washed away from them, then amongst the small strings or fibres that grow to the roots, you'l find little husks or cases of a reddish or yellowish, and some of other colours; open these carefully with a Pin, and you'l find in them a little small Worm, pale, yellow or white as a Gentle, but longer and slenderer, with rows of feet all down his belly, and a red head. This is an exceeding good bait for Grayling, and likewise for Tench, *Bream* and Carp. If you pull the Flags in sunder, and cut open the round Stalk, you'l also find a Worm like the former in the husk, but tougher, and in that respect better: both these Worms are to be kept in bran, and baited on the bristled hook as the Ash-grub, and when you Angle for Grayling with them, use a Float and the smallest Lines, and the bait to be 5 or 6 inches from ground. A Trout rarely takes either Ash-grub, or Flag-worm.

Gentles, or Maggots.

16. Are kept with dead Flesh, beasts Liver or Suet, or which is better, keep, cleanse or scour them in Meal or Wheat-bran. You may breed them by pricking a beasts Liver full of Holes; hang it in the Sun in Summer time, and set under an old course barrel or small Ferkin with Clay and *Bran* in it; into which they will drop, and therein cleanse themselves, and be always ready for use, and thus Gentles may be

created until *Michaelmas*, but if you would fish with them from *Michaelmas* to *May-Day*, then get a dead Cat, Kite, or other Carrion, at the latter end of *September*, and let it be Fly-blown, and when the Gentles begin to be alive, stir, or creep, then bury it, and then in soft moist Earth, deep in the ground, that the Frost kill them not, and they'l serve to use till *March* or *April* following, about which time they'l turn to be Flies.

Gentles are sometimes added to a Worm, and sometimes put on the point of a Dub-fly Hook, for Salmon Smelts, but most commonly they are used by themselves; when you go to Fish with Gentles, put them in a Horn (wherein are small holes bored to let in air) with some Wheat-bran only. And some shave some of a Barbers Sweet Wash-ball into the bran.

Others anoint the Horn wherein the Gentles are in bran, with Honey, and others perfume the Horn wherein they are kept with Musk and Civet, you may imitate a Gentle with white Jersey Wooll, if you be mindful to joyn it to another bait or fly, for Salmon-Smelts.

Gentles are very good baits for Roch, Dace, Chub, Carp, Tench, Barbel and Bleak.

Sheeps Blood.

17. Dry it in the Air upon a board or trencher

trencher, till it become pretty hard, then cut it into ſmall pieces, proportioned for the ſize of the Hook, ſome add a little Salt to it, which keeps it from growing black, and ſay, it makes it not worſe but better, its a good bait for Chub, Roch, and Dace, if rightly ordered.

Grain, Wheat, Malt.

18. When you uſe Grain, as Malt, Wheat, *&c.* boyl it ſoft in milk, or which is liked better, in ſweet Wort, and peel off the outward rind, which is the bran, and then uſe it, or if you will, you may then fry it in Honey and Milk, or ſteep it in ſome ſtrong ſcented Oyls, as Amber, Spike, Polypody, Ivy, Anniſe, Turpentine, *&c.* For Fiſh can ſmell, elſe Nature had beſtowed Noſtrils in vain on them, which were ridiculous to think. Grain is a good bait either in Winter or Summer, for Chub, Roch, Dace and *Bleak*.

Ant-fly.

19. When the Ant-fly is pleptifulleſt (which is in the end of *June*, *July*, *Auguſt*, and moſt of *September*) go to the Ant-Hills where they breed, take a great handful of the Earth, with as much of the root of the Graſs that groweth on thoſe Hillocks, put all into a large glaſs bottle, then gather a great quantity of the blackeſt Ant-flies, their bodies and wings unbruiſ-

ed

put them into a Bottle or Firkin, (if you would keep them long) first washed with Honey, or Water and Honey, these in any stream and cleer Water, are a deadly bait for Roch, Dace, and Chub, and you must Angle with them under the Water, no less than a handful from the bottom.

Take an Ant-fly or May-fly, sink him with a little Lead to the bottom, near to the Piles, posts of a bridge, post of a Weir, or any deep places, where Roches lye quietly, and then pull your Fly up very leisurely, and usually a Roch will follow your bait, to the very top of the water, and gaze on it there, and run at it, and take it, least the Fly escape him. Ant fly may be kept alive, as is directed two or three Months.

Young brood of Wasps, Hornets and Humble-Bees.

20. Dry them upon a Fire-shovel or Tile-stone, or in an Oven, cooling after baking, lest they burn, and to avoid that, lay them on a thin board or chip, and cover them with another, so supported as not to crush them, or else clap two cakes together, this way they will keep long, and stick on the Hook well: if you boyl them a minute or two in water or milk, they grow black in a few days, but are good for present use, these are singular good baits for Roch, Dace and Chub, and you may try them for

for Carp, Tench and Bream, which I fancy will scarce refuse them.

Salmon Spawn

21. Is a very good bait for Chub. Take the Spawn and boil it so hard as to stick on the Hook, and then use it, or not boiled at all is used by some; others take the Spawn and put good store of Salt to it, and hang the same in a Linnen bag in the Kitchen, but far off the Fire, and it will be hard, and then they steep it the night before it is used in Strong Waters; Some exspert Anglers preserve Salmon-Spawn from pineing with Salt, or discolouring with moisture, by laying it upon Wooll in a pot, one layr of Spawn and another of Wooll, to the filling of the Pot, and tis a lovely bait for the Winter and Spring, especially if used where Salmons use to Spawn, for thither the Fish are gathered, and there expect it.

Minnow Loach and Bull-Head

22. Are baits for Pike, Pearch, Chub, Eel, and great Trout; The Trout takes these baits, about a Foot within water, and sometimes lower in the deeps, in *March*, *April* and *September*, when the Wind is in the South, or Southwest, and bloweth strongly, curling the Waters and raising high waves, in Summer-months, he takes them not in the day time, unless

less the day be dark and the Wind high; and then you must add some Lead to the Line, and sink these baits to the bottom, for the Trout will not take them at mid-water, in a cleer water in Summer, and although these baits are only taken by Pike and Trout in a cleer water in the day time, yet you may bait night Hooks with them, and they are an excellent bait either for Chub, Pike, Trout or Eel, in the night. Minnows of a middle size and whitish are the best, tho the Minnow is a very good bait for Jack, Pearch and Trout; yet Experience tells me, that a small Loach or Bull-Head, his gill fins being cut off, are better than Minnows by many degrees. When you Angle with Minnow, small Loach or Bull-head for Trout, be sure the bait turn quick, and be always in motion.

Lamprey, Pride or Seaven Eyes

23. Are all one, and like unto small Eels, no thicker than a straw, and may be found in sandy muddy heaps in Rivers near the side, almost as easily as Worms in a Dung-hill, and are good baits either by night or day for Chubs and Eels, so are small Eel-brood for Chubs.

Snails.

24. Both the white and black Snal, his belly slit that the white appear, are good baits for the

the Chub, very early in the morning, but in the heat of the day he cares not for them, likewise Trouts and Eels will take them at the night-Hook, in the night.

Grash-hopper.

25. Fish take them best, in the latter end of *June*, all *July* and *August*, cut off their Legs and outwards wings, the middle size are best. For Trout or Grayling, you may Lead your Hook on the shank, with a slender plate of Lead, made narrowest and slendereſt at the bent of the Hook, that the plate may come over it, then draw him over the Lead, after put a lesser or a Cod-bait on the point, and keep your bait in continual motion, lifting it up and sinking again, pull off the Grashoppers uppermost Wings, a Chub will likewise very well take this bait.

Others, and very expert Anglers too, use with good success, only the Tail or half of the Grashopper; putting on the Hook first a young Beetle, or Sharn-bud, which is found in a Cow-turd, of a day or two old, and they take of the higher hard Wings, and then she puts forth a long pair, coloured like those of the Pad Fly: this in a close water, and which breeds a large Trout, is as killing a bait as any whatever, but tis not so good in a shallow, cleer and open River, by the opinion of many, you may dib with the Grass-hopper, either for Chub or Toout.

Water-

Water-Cricket, Water-Louse or Creeper.

26. Are all one, and are excellent good for a Trout in *March*, *April* or before, 'tis found under hollow-stones in the Water, and you may fish within half a foot or a foot off the bottom, others let it drag on the ground, and others and expert Anglers too affirm, that if you dibble in the streams about noon, on a Sun-shiny day, and so for two or three hours therewith in the Month of *April* for Trouts, that 'tis a Murthering bait; 'tis always to be used in a cleer water, and is not found in every River. These creepers always turn into Stone-flys about *May*.

Lip-Berries

27. Whose true name is *Aron-Berries*, or Berries of *Cookow-pints* or *Wake-Robin*, these berries proceed from the Herb *Aron*, and are ripe and fit for use in *July* and *August*, and are of a lovely Red or Orange colour, and transparent, and are good baits for Roch, and especially Chub. Any Apothecary will shew you the Herb in the Spring, and do you look for the berries or fruit in *July* and *August*.

Cherries, Gal-berries and Black-Berries

28. Are baits for Chubs, and they will take them

them best in Ponds or Rivers, where such trees grow near the water, and such fruit customarily dropt into them, sometimes a Carp will take them.

Oat-Cake or Cheese

29. Are good baits to Angle with for Chub, Roch, Dace and Barbel, when you use a ledger bait, your Cheese may be kept a day or two (if it be not new which it ought to be) in a wet linnen Cloth, or steeped a little in Honey.

To keep baits for Pike.

30. Carry baits for Pike, as small Roch, Dace, Gudgeon, Salmon Smelt, Minow, small Trout, and small Eels in Bran, which will dry up the slimy moisture, that is on them, and so keep them longer, and cause them stick more firmly on the Hook, besides there is a green watery substance, that issueth out of Fish, which will infect and rot them, but the Bran dryeth up the same, and preventeth that mischief.

Oak-Fly, Ash-Fly, or Woodcock-Fly.

31. Is call'd by all these names, in different places, and is a very good Fly, from the beginning of *May*, until the end of *August*, its a brownish fly, and found on the body of an Oak,

or

or Ash, and stands frequently with his head downwards, towards the root of the Tree, this very proper for a Trout; and the best way to use it, is to put one on the Hook, and sometimes two, and at the point of the Hook a Cod-bait, and let them sink 6 Inches or a Foot into the water, and then raise it again gently, having a short dubbing Line, and it is a deadly bait for a Trout in a cleer water, and sometimes instead of a Cod-bait use an Oak-worm, or green grub got of an Haw-thorn: some dub it with black wooll, Isabella coloured Mohair, and bright brownish Bears hair, wrapt on with yellow Silk, but the head of an Ash colour. Others dub it with an Orange tawny and black ground. Others with blackish Wooll and gold Twist about it; the wings must be the brown of a Mallards Feather, if you could but once dub it aright, there would be no need of the natural one.

Stone-Fly and green Drake.

32. I shall say nothing of them here, because I shall exactly Describe them when I come to Dub-fly Angling.

Hawthorn Fly

33. Is a black-fly, to be found on every Haw thorn bush, after the leaves are come forth, and

and is a Fly to be used for dibbing in some Rivers.

Fish-Eyes.

34. Pull out the Eyes of those Fish you catch, and put them on the Hook, and they are an excellent bait for most sort of Fish.

A Rule about Baits.

35. Fish take all sorts of baits most eagerly and freely, and with the least suspition or boggling, when you present the same unto them in such order and manner as Nature affords them, or as themselves ordinary gather them; and some are peculiar to certain Countries and Rivers, of which every Angler may in his own place make his own Observation; as some of the foregoing baits will be taken in some particular Rivers, and not in others, and are found in some Rivers and not in others, and the same baits are taken earlier in some Rivers than others, and sooner or later in some years than others, according to the quality and season of the year; although in general ground-baits are useful and certain, almost in every River, yet so is not the Fly, which varies in colour, kind or proportion, almost in every River, nay in the very same River at 5 or 6 miles distance.

CHAP. V.

Of PASTS.

THIS Chapter Treats only of Pasts, which might have been comprehended under the general Notion of Baits, yet since they are Artificial ones, and to be Angled with at ground or within the water, I judg'd it best to Discourse of them distinctly, in a Chapter by themselves, and although there are or may be as many and distinct Pasts, as the luxurancies of every fancy will suggest, yet the subsequent are of best Estimation.

Pasts.

1. Take bean flower, and if that be not to be got, then wheat flower, and the tendrest part of the leg of a young Rabbet, whelp or catling, as much Virgins Wax and Sheep Suet, beat them in a Mortar till they be perfectly incorporated, then with a little clarified Honey, temper them before the fire into a Past; some omit the Bean and Wheat flower.

2. Take Sheeps Kidney Suet, as much Cheese, fine flower or Manchet, make it into a Past, and allay its stiffness with clarified Honey.

3. Take

3. Take Sheeps-blood, Cheese, Fine Manchet, Clarified Honey, make all into a Past.

4. Take Cherries (the stones being taken out) Sheeps-blood, fine Manchet, and Saffron to colour it with, and make a Past.

5. Take the fattest old Cheese, and strongest of the Rennet, Mutton-Kidney Suet, Wheat flower and Annised Water (and if for Chub add some reasted *Bacon*) beat all very small into a fine Past.

6. Take the fattest old Cheese and strongest of the Rennet, Mutton-Kidney Suet, and Turmerick reduced into a fine pouder, work all into a Past, add the Turmerick only till the Past become of a very fine lovely yellow colour, this is excellent for Chevin.

Observations on Past.

7. In *September* and all Winter, when you Angle for Chub, Carp and *Bream* with Past, let the bait be as big as a large Hazel Nut; but for Roach and Dace, the bignes of a large Pea, or ordinary *Bean* is sufficient.

8. You may add to any Past, *Assa fetida*, Oyl of *Polypody* of the Oak, Oyl Ivy, or the Gum of Ivy, and many other things; and try whether they will encrease the Sport.

9. Into all sort of Pasts whatever, beat Cotton Wooll, shaved Lint, or fine Flax into it, which will make it stick well on the Hook, and not wash off; and if you would have the Past

keep long, put Virgins Wax and Clarified Honey into it.

10. When you Angle with Past, have a small Hook, quick Eye, a nimble Hand and Rod, and that somewhat stiff too, or both bait and Fish are lost, and you must strike at the very first time you perceive them bite, and Past is to be used in Pits, Ponds, Meats, slow running Rivers, or standing waters: only Note that this Rule is General, and holds in all very tender baits.

11. Past is a very good bait for Chub, Roch, Dace, Barbel, Carp, Tench and Bream and Bleak.

12. When you Angle with Past, or any very tender bait, use a Float of Quill, rather than of Cork.

13. Some pound strong Cheese with fresh Butter and Saffron (to colour it) in a Mortar, and make a Past thereof.

14. Take Flower made of fine Manchet, and Butter, and Saffron to colour it, and make a Past, and you'l find it an excellent Bait for Reck and Dace, &c.

CHAP

CHAP. VI.

Oyntments to Alure Fish to the Bait.

NEXT follow Oyntments and Receipts, which I have read and been informed of, by several knowing Anglers, for the better furtherance of this Sport, some whereof I have Experienced, and tho I found them advantageous to my Recreation, yet far from so high a degree as has been pretended to me; nevertheless I shall present you with them, and if you'l be at the expence and labour of a Tryal, you may Elect those for your daily use, which on your own Experience you find to be the best, and the first shall be one highly commended by Monsieur *Charras* (Operator and Apothecary Royal to the present French King, *Lewis* the 14.) in his *Pharmacopœia*, printed at *London*, part the second, *p.* 245.

1. Take Mans Fat and Cats Fat, of each half an Ounce, Mummy finely poudered three Drams, Cummin-seed finely poudered, one Dram, distilled Oyl of Annise and Spike, of each six Drops, Civet two Grains, and Camphir 4 Grains, make an Oyntment according to Art, and when you Angle, anoint 8 Inches of the Line next the Hook therewith, and keep it

it in a pewter Box, made something taper, and when you use this Oyntment, never Angle with less than three Hairs next Hook, because if you Angle but with one hair, it will not stick on.

2. Take Gum-Ivy, and put thereof a good quantity into a *Box* made of Oak (such as Apothecaries use of White-wood, and long for Pills) and chase and rub the inside of the box with this Gum, and when you Angle put three or four Worms therein, letting them remain but a short time (for if long it kills them) and then take them out and Fish with them, putting more in their stead out of the worm-bag and Moss, and thus do all day.

3. To get Gum-Ivy, at Michaelmas or Spring, drive several great Nails into large Ivy stalks, and wriggle the same till they become very loose, and let them remain, and a Gum will issue thereout. Slit in the Spring and at Michaelmas several great Ivy stalks, and visit them once a Month to see if Gum flow from the wounded part.

4. Take *Assa-fetida*, half an ounce, Camphir two Drams, bray them well together with some drops of Oyl Olive, and put it in a pewter Box, and use it as the first Receipt of this Chapter; some instead of Oyl Olive, use the Chymical Oyl of Lavender and Camomil, and to one add the quantity of a Nutmeg of Venice Turpentine to it.

5. Take Venice Turpentine and best Hi-

Ho-

Honey, and Oyl of Polypody of the Oak drawn by Retort, mix all together, and use it as the first Receipt of this Chapter.

6. Take Oyl of Ivy-berries, made by expression or infusion, and put some in a Box, and use it as is directed in the second Receipt of this Chapter.

7. Dissolve Gum Ivy in the Oyl of Spike, and anoint the bait therewith.

8. Put Camphir into the Moss, wherein are the Worms the day you Angle.

9. Dissolve two ounces of Gum Ivy, in a gill of Spring water, then mix these together in the like quantity of the Oyl of Sweet Almonds, then take what quantity of Worms you intend to use that day (first well scoured in Moss) and put them in linnen Thrums, first well washed in Spring water, and squeez'd, then wet the same Thrums in this Composition, and put the Thrums and Worms into a Linnen bag, and use them.

10. Take Assa fœtida 3 Drams, Spikenard of *Spain* one Dram, put them in a Pint of Spring-water, let them stand in a shady place 14 days in the ground, then take it out, and strain it through a linnen cloth, and put to the liquor one Dram of *Sperma Ceti*, and keep it close in a strong glass Bottle, and when you go to Angle take what quantity you intend to use that day of Worms (first well scowrd in Moss) and put them upon a pewter Sawcer, and powr a little of this water upon them, then put them

in the Moss again and use them.

11. Take Juyce of Camomil half a spoonful, Chymical Oyl of Spike one Dram, and Oyl of Comfrey by Infusion, one Dram and an half, Goose Grease two Drams; these being well dissolved over the Fire, let stand until cold, then put it into a strong Glass Bottle, which let be unstopt 3 or 4 days, then stop it very well; when you Angle anoint the same therewith.

12. Take a handful of Housleek, half a handful of inner green bark of the Ivy stalk, pound these well together, and press the Juyce thereout, and wet your Moss therewith, and when you Angle put 6 or 8 Worms therein, out of the other Worm-bag, and when spent by fishing, do the like.

13. Some use the Juyce of Nettles and Housleek, as the last, and some only the Juyce of Housleek.

14. Some anoint their bait with the Marrow got out of a Herons Thigh-bone.

15. Take the Bones or Scull of a Dead-man, at the opening of a Grave, and beat the same into pouder, and put of this pouder in the Moss wherein you keep your Worms, but others like Grave Earth as well.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

General Directions and Observations.

LET the Anglers Apparrel not be of a light shining or glittering colour, which will reflect upon the water; and affright away the Fish, but let it be of a sad dark colour, and close to his body: for Fish are affrighted with any the least sight or motion, therefore by all means keep out of sight, when you Angle in a cleer water, either by sheltring behind some *Bush* or Tree, or by standing as far off the Rivers side you can possible; to effect this the better, a long Rod at ground, and a long Rod and line at artificial Fly, are absolutely necessary. Neither ought you to jump on the banks next the water you Angle in, for of all Creatures there is none more sharp sighted, or fearful than Fish, especially Trouts, Chubs and Carp.

2. When you Angle at Ground, in a cleer Water, or dibble with natural Flies, Angle going up the River, but in a muddy water, or with Dub-fly, Angle going down the River.

3. Before you set out to Angle, see that your baits be good, sweet, fine, and agreeable to the River and Season, and likewise your Tackle suitable, for if otherwise you had better stay at home.

4. Use

4. Use Shoomakers wax to the Tread or Silk with which you make or mend either Rod or Fly: for it holds more firmly and sticks better then any other.

5. When you have hooked a good Fish, have an especial care to keep the Rod bent, least he run to the end of the Line, and break either Hook or Hold.

6. Angle for all sort of Fish whatever in that part of the River, where his haunt is described to be.

Fishes general Haunt.

7. Where any Weeds Roots of Trees, Stones, Wood or other rubbish, its often good, but very troublesom Angling: for to such places Fishes resort for warmth and security; so likewise in Whirl-pools: for they are like pits in Rivers, and are seldom unfurnished of good Fish; likewise at Weirs, Mill-streams, piles, posts, and pillars of Bridges, Flood-gates, Cataracts and Falls of Waters, the Eddies betwixt two Streams, the returns of a Stream and the side of a Stream, are good places generally to Angle in, and in Summer all Fish generally lay in the more shallow part of the River, or in a strong, swift or gentle stream, except Carp, Tench and Eel in Winter, all fly into the deep still places: where it ebbeth and floweth, Fish sometimes bite best, in the Ebb most usually, sometimes when it floweth, rarely at full water, near the

Ar-

Arches of bridges, Weirs or Floot-Gates.

8. When any Fish have taken the Hook from you, if it be not swallowed into their Gorge, they will live, either the water will cause it to rust, and in time wear away, or the Fish will go to the bottom, and there root like a Hog on the Gravel, till they either rub it out, or break the Hook in the middle.

How to feed Fish.

9. Into such places as you use to Angle once a Week at least, cast in all sorts of Corn boyled soft, grains steeped in blood, blood dryed and cut into pieces, Snails, Worms chopt into peices, peices of Fowl or Beasts Guts, Beasts Livers, Cheese chewed; especially for Carp, Tench, Chub, Roch, Dace, Barbel and Bream, you cannot feed too often or too much; this course draweth the Fish to the place you desire, and there keeps them together, cast in about twenty Grains of ground Malt, or Beans ground, now and then as you Angle, or chewed Oat-Cake or Cheese: but by no means when you Angle in a stream, cast them in at your Hook, but something above where you Angle, least the stream carry them beyond the Hook, and so instead of drawing them to you, you draw them beyond you.

10. If you Angle at any place you have twice or thrice baited, and find no sport, if none has been there before you, or no grand

Im-

Impediment in the Season or Water appear; be assured Pike or Pearch (if they breed in that River) have there taken up their quarters and affright all other Fish thence, for fear of being made a prey: your only remedy is presently to Angle for them, with suitable Tackle and baits, and when they are caught, the others will repossess themselves of their former station.

To know what Bait and Fly Fish take.

11. The first Fish you catch, rip up his belly, and you may then see his Stomach; its known by its largeness and place, lying from the Gills to the small Guts, take it out very tenderly (if you bruise it your labour is lost) and with a sharp Pen knife cut it open without bruising, and then you'l find his Food in it, and thereby discover what bait at that instant the Fish take best, Flyes or Ground-baits, and so fit them accordingly, and if you have a magnifying Glass, you may (with some pleasure to you) easily discover the very true colour of the Fly, and some can do it pretty well without a Glass.

12. Keep the Sun (and Moon if Night) before you, if your eyes will endure it; at least be sure to have these Planets on your side: for if they be on your back, both your self and Rod will with its shadow offend much, and the Fish see further and clearer, when they look towards those Lights, then the contrary; as

you

you may experiment thus, in a dark night if a man come between you and any Light, you see him clearly, but not at all if the Light come betwixt you and him.

13. All Fish whatever that swim in Rivers are wholesomer, pleasanter, and far better tasted than those of the same kind that live in Pits, Ponds, Mears and standing waters.

14. A Hog back and a little head, either to Trout, Salmon, or any other Fish, are a sign they are in Season.

15. Let all baits and Flyes whatsoever fall gently first into the Water, before any other part of the Line, and with as little of the Line as possible, and without any disturbance, plunging or circling of the water, which mightily scares Fish.

16. Some Fish are said to be Leather mouthed, that is their mouths are so tough, that if they once be hooked they seldom break the hold; such are the Chub, Barbel, Carp, Tench, Roch and Gudgeon: But the Pike, Salmon, Pearch, Grayling, Trout and Bream are very tender mouthed, and their hold often breaks after they are hooked.

17. Roch and Dace or Dare recover strength, and grow in season within a fortnight after spawning, Barbel and Chub within a month, Trout in 4 months, and the Salmon in like time if he get into the Sea, and after into fresh water.

18. Angle always if you can on the Lee-

shore,

shore, and note that Fish lie or swim nearest the bottom, and in deeper water in Winter than in Summer, and also near the bottom in any cold day, and then gets near the calm side of the water, and in the Winter are caught best at the mid-time of the day, and in Sun-shiny weather.

19. When you put any living bait on the hook; torment or bruise the same as little as possible that they may live long on the hook after baited.

20. Let him that would be a compleat Angler, spend some time in Angling in all sorts of waters, Ponds, Rivers swift and slow, stony, gravelly, muddy, chalky and slimy; and observe all the differences in the nature of the Soils, on which they run or stand, and likewise the nature and humour of the Fish, waters and baits, and so he will become a perfect and judicious Artist, and be able to take Fish wherever he Angleth, and will find much difference between swift and slow Rivers.

Likewise let the Angler observe when he takes store of Fish, the age of the Moon, the temperature of the preceeding night, and the darkness, brightness or windiness of it, season and nature of the morning and day, together with the temperature of the air and water, and all other precedent, concomitant, natural or adventicious advantages that could any way conduce to his sport, and enter them in a Book with the day of the month, &c. hereby with a little

little practice he'l be able to raise Conclusions for the improvement of this Art.

21. In all sort of Angling, be sure to keep out of the Fishes sight, and as far off the Rivers bank as possible.

22. Several Countries alter the time, and almost the manner of Fishes breeding, but doubtless of their being in season, as in the River *Wye* in *Mouumouthshire*, Salmon are in season from *September* to *April*, but in the *Thames* and *Trent* and most other Rivers they are in season almost all the 6 hot months.

23. Gather or get all sorts of materials to make Angle Rods on, as the Hasle, Blackthorn, Ewe, *&c.* at the Winter Solstice, or at least between the last day of *November*, and the 20 day of *December*, because all sort of Wood then is the most free from Sap; it not ascending with that vigour from the root into the ball and branches, by reason of the coldness of the weather, and the Suns small stay on our Horizon, which renders its influence feeble.

24. Trouts, Salmons, Pikes Pearches and Eels have large mouths, and their Teeth there, but most other Fish have their Teeth in their Throat.

25. You may much advantage your self in fitting your Lines, especially the artificial Fly line, by making the uppermost link or gildard to consist of 12 or 9 hairs, and one or two hairs less in the next link, and so abate proportionally in every Link, until you come to the Hook

it self; by this means a very Bungler will cast a Fly well, and if you chance to fasten your Hook, and cannot come to loosen it, you will not loose above one gildard or two at most, though you pull to break it, because the Line is so strong at the upper end.

CHAP. VIII.

Seasons generally improper for Angling.

1. IN great droughts when the Rivers are small, or in the heat of the day in Summer, although there be no drought (except cooled by Wind, or shadowed by Clouds) you'l find small sport, especially in marly, chalky, slimy, or very shallow and clear waters.

2. In cold frosty or snowy weather, or when store of Snow broth is in the River, its to little purpose to Angle; when there happeneth in the Summer or Spring, especially any small hoary Frost, all that day after the Fish will not rise kindly and freely, except in the Evening and that prove pleasant.

3. If the Wind either be Easterly, or so high that you cannot guide your tools, its to little

purpose to Angle, for there is a secret malignity in the East Wind, that generally abates the Fishes desire of baits and appetite.

4. Sharp, bitter, nipping Winds blowing from the North, but the East especially, blast the recreation.

5. After any sort of Fish have spawned, they'l not bite to any purpose, until they have recovered their strength and former appetite.

6. When any Clouds arise that will certainly bring a shower or storm (though in the midst of Summer) they will not bite, and if they bit well before, yet at the approach thereof they will cease biting.

7. When the Nights prove dark, cloudy or windy, and that the Moon shines not at all, next day there will be little or no sport, except at small ones: For Trouts and great Fish then range about to devour others and seek Food, so that when the nights are dark or windy, the next day rarely proves successful to the Angler for great Fish, especially Trouts.

8. In small, clear and shallow Brooks, where the Mills stand and keep up the water, you will neither catch Fish at ground or fly at that time; for Fish, especially Trouts, then dare not come out of their Hold.

9. When people wash their Sheep in Summer, at the first time only Fish bite well, because the Filth draweth them together as to a baiting place; but after they have glutted

themselves 4 or 5 days, they will not bite again till washing time be over.

10. Thunder and Lightning are very offensive, and spoil the Anglers sport.

CHAP. IX.

Seasons generally proper for Angling.

1. IN general esteem, the best hours to Angle in betwixt the Equinoxes, are from Sun-rising, until half an hour after 10 a Clock and from 2 a Clock in the Afternoon until 6.

2. If the day be dark, close and lowring, or have a gentle whistling Wind playing on the water, or a fine missling Dew of Rain falls gently without violence, Fish will bite. So when Trouts leap out of the water, and Pikes shoot in pursuit of other Fishes, they will bite well, if you Angle with tackle and baits proper for the Season and Fish.

3. Calm, clear (or which is far better) cool, cloudy weather in Summer, the Wind blowing gently, so as you may guide your Tools with ease, in the hottest months the cooler the better.

4. When

4. When a sudden violent shower hath a little mudded and raised the water, then if you go forth immediately after such a shower, and Angle at ground in the Stream or sides thereof with Brandling, Gilt-tail, Tag-tail, or chiefly Red-worm well scowred; if there be store of Fish, you'l have Sport to your own Satisfaction.

5. When Floods have carried away all the Filth that the Rain had washed from the higher grounds into the River, and that the River keepeth his usual bounds, and is of a Whey, Chesnut, brown, or Ale colour, then its good to Angle at ground.

6. After Floods are gone away, and Rivers come within their own banks, their first clearness recovered, and the water pure, then its good to Angle.

7. A little before any Fish spawn, they come into the gravelly, sandy Fords to rub and loosen their Bellies, and then and there they bite well.

8. When Rivers are raised by Rain, and yet are within their Banks, Fish seek shelter and ease in little and milder currents of small Brooks that fall into larger Rivers, and at the sides or ends of Bridges that defend a small space of ground from the impetuousness of the Stream, or in any low place near the Riverside, Fish rest and secure themselves from the rapid Stream, in such a place not too deep, you'l find Sport.

9. At the conflux of Rivers, and where it Ebbeth and Floweth, Fish sometimes bite very well, in the Ebb most usually, sometimes when it floweth, rarely at full water.

10. In *February*, *March*, beginning of *April*, *September*, and all Winter Months, Fish bite best in the Sun shine, warmth and middle part of the day, no Wind stirring, the Air clear; In the Summer months, mornings and evenings are best, and dark, windy, cool or cloudy weather: if you can guide your Tools and find shelter, no matter how high the Winds be, so they be not Easterly.

11. Fish rise best at the Fly after a shower, that hath not mudded the Water, yet hath beaten the Gnats and Flyes into the River, you may in such a shower observe them to rise much, if you can but endure the Rain. The best Months for Fly, are *March*, *April* and *May*; in cooler months, Angle in the warmth of the day, in warm weather about 9 in the morning, and 3 a clock in the afternoon, are the very chief times to Angle in, if any gentle Gale blow, sometimes in a warm Evening, if the Gnat play much.

12. In calm, clear and Star-light Nights (especially if the Moon shine) great Fish, Trouts especially, are as wary and fearful as in dark windy days, and stir not, but if the next day prove cloudy and windy, and the water in order, you may be sure of sport, if there be store of Fish in the River: for having ab-

ſtained from food all night, they are more hungry and eager, and the darkneſs and windineſs of the day makes them more bold to bite.

13. In ſmall clear Brooks, if you come in, or immediately after a ſhower that hath raiſed the water, or take it juſt as any Mill-Water begins to come down, and ſo go along with the courſe of the water, Fiſh eſpecially Trouts, will then bite well, for then they come forth to ſeek Food, which they expect the water to bring down.

14. In *May* eſpecially, and generally all Summer, if the morning prove extream cold, as ſometimes it doth (although there be no Froſt,) Fiſh bite not to any purpoſe, until the day become warmer, and if it prove cold all the day long, they bite beſt where the Sun ſhines, but not at all in the ſhady parts of the River.

15. If the day be dark and cloudy in the Summer, no matter how high the Winds be, ſo they be not Eaſterly, and you be able to manage your Tools.

16. After the River is cleared from a Flood, Fiſh riſe very well, being glutted with ground-Baits, they then covet the Fly, having wanted it a time.

17. Morning and Evening are beſt for ground Line, for a Trout or other Fiſh, in clear weather and water, but in cloudy weather or muddy water, you may Angle at ground all day.

18. Great Fish, as Trouts, feed most in the night, especially if it be dark or windy, and then bite not next day, unless dark or windy it prove, and then a little in the afternoon.

19. The Wind blowing from the South or West, is good to Angle in, the North Wind is but indifferent, but the East very bad.

20. All Fish bite keener and better especially in Summer, in twift, rapid, stony Rivers, than in those that run gently, and glyde on slime and mud.

CHAP. X.

Observations on the Trout.

MY next Discourse shall be of the several sorts of Fish, wherein I shall only tell you of little more than their Haunts (which is the place proper to Angle in for them) their particular times of Biting, Spawning, Season and Baits, omitting much that might be said of each Fish, because this is intended to be a Summary of the Anglers Art, and more for Practise than Theory; and for that the Trout is the most Excellent Fish, by the Vogue of the most curious Palats, my first Discourse shall be of him.

His Haunt.

1. A Trout loveth small purling Brooks or

Ri-

Rivers, that are very swift, crystal and cleer running on Stones or Gravel, he seeds whilst strong at the swiftest Streams, and more usually in the side of the Stream than in it, sometimes in the deepest part of it (especially if he be a large one) and near the Banks, or behind a Stone, Block, or some Bank that shoots forth with a point into the River, upon which the stream beareth much, and causeth a whirling of the water back by the banks side, much like the Eddy of the Tide, and he the more willingly maketh choice of this place, if there be a shade over his Head, as a bush, foam, or hollow hanging Bank, under which he can shelter himself, or behind a stone, log, or some small bank that shoots into the River, which the Stream beareth upon, where he'l ly watching for what cometh down the stream, and suddenly catcheth it up, sometimes in the Eddies betwixt two streams, and in the returns of a stream he lyes, his Hold is usually in the deep, under a hollow place of the bank, root of a Tree or Stone, which he loves exceedingly, and sometimes, but not often, he's found in Weeds, in the Spring and latter end of Summer hee'l ply at tail of a Stream, but in *Mid-May* at the upper end (and so do most Fish) if his hold be near hee'l stay long in a place, as he grows stronger he departs from the dead still Waters into the sharp Streams and Gravel, yet the best Trouts often in Summer, in excessive Droughts, are driven out of the small

and shallow Streams, and retire into the plain Deeps, where you may catch them with dibbing, or on a cloudy windy day with a Castfly.

2. If there be great store of Chub in the River, you shall only catch Trouts in the Streams, in *March*, *April* and *September*; because in the 4 hot months, Chubs come into the Streams, and then drive out Trouts, by the Opinion of very good Anglers.

Spawning time, Season, &c.

3. Trouts, contrary to most Fish, spawn about Martynmas, in some Rivers a little earlier or later: but most other Fish spawn in the Spring or Summer, he's in season from beginning of *March* until *Michaelmas*, but his chief season is the end of *May*, the Female hath a less Head and deeper body then Male, the belly are usually red or yellow, and some white, yet good, but those rarely found, some Soils nourish them better than others; for in the same River you shall in one Field catch one lank, lean, and with a great Head, and in the next Field one full, thick, lusty, fat and with a small Head: they dye quickly after taken, but the Bel, Carp and Tench, live long out of their proper Element, they and Salmons will miraculously pass thorough and over Weares, Flood-gates, small Cataracts, and Fish garths, they are a greedy, devouring and ravenous

Fish

Fish, and in their season nimble, quick and strives long and vigorously for their lives; and will run among roots, weeds, or any thing to entangle the Line, or break it, and when struck will endeavour to run to the end of the Line, they like a large Bait at ground, and his ground-bait must drag on the ground, flyes they take most at top of the water, or within 3 or 4 inches of it, with Minnow or Loach, he's caught within a foot off the surface of the Water, and sometimes lower by trouling, they are no long-lived Fish, at full growth they decline in body, and grow in the Head until death.

Baits for the Trout.

4. Principal Baits for Trouts at the ground, are Worm, Brandlings, Giltails, Tag-tail, Meadow and Red-Worm, but for a mighty Trout the Dew-Worm; the two first are the principal Worms for him all the year, both in clear and muddy waters, the others for waters discoloured with Rain, then a Cod-bait, which is either for top or bottom, so is the Clap-bait, and the Water-cricket, he takes the Palmer-fly, or Woolf-bed, and all sorts of Flyes both natural and artificial at top of the Water, especially the Palmer-fly, Water-cricket, Stone-fly, green Drake, and Ash-fly, he will likewise take a Cod-bait and Clap-bait, that are Counterfeited with yellow Wax, Shammy or Buff, as before

fore is directed, sometimes he takes the Oak-worm, and Haw-thorn-worm, at top of the Water.

The Menow, Bull-head, his Guil Finns cut off, and the Loach especially, are excellent baits in a cleer water for great Trouts, in *March*, *April* and *September*, about midwater, to troul with, in the Streams, or on Windy days in the deep.

He will also take all sorts of Bobs, Palmers, Caterpillars, Gentles, Dores, the young brood of Wasps, young Humble-bees, Hornets, Beetles, their Legs and uppermost Wings cut off, and Grass-hoppers, his Leggs and outmost Wings cut likewise off, as the Brandling, Gil-tail, Tag-tail, Meadow-worm, Red-worm, and Dew-worm, are the best Worms for the ground Angle, to be suited respectively to the Temperature and colour of the River (although the Brandling and Giltail are for either muddy or cleer waters, and perhaps the best) so is the Cod-bait, Clap-bait, Water-Cricket, Palmer-worm, Stone-Fly, Green-Drake, Oak-Fly, and Artificial Fly, the best for the Trout at the top of the Water when cleer. Dibble with the Water-Cricket, Stone-Fly, Green-Drake, Grass-hopper, and Sharn-bud, as they severally come in Season, dib also with the Oak-fly and a Cod-bait at point of the Hook, and let them sink half a foot or a foot, within water, and its a dead bait for a Trout, also a Clap-bait and artificial Head and Wings, with

a

a briſtled Hook, as Cod-bait is uſed is excellent for top. Of each of theſe particular Baits, ſee more in the Chapter of Baits.

The ways to Angle for them.

5. The way to Angle for Trout, at ground, is with the running line, without any float, or he's caught by Float-Angling at ground, at mid-water by Trowling, at top of the water by dibbing and the caſt-fly; of all which ways, ſee more hereafter.

Biting time.

6. A Trout bites beſt in a muddy, riſing water, or in a water that is clearing after a Flood; or in dark, cloudy or windy weather, early in the morning, from a little after Sunriſing, till about half an hour after ten, and from about two a clock in the afternoon till ſix, and ſometimes in the evening, but 9 a clock in the forenoon, and 3 in the afternoon, are his chieſeſt and moſt conſtant hours of biting at Ground or Fly, as the water ſuits either: *March*, *April*, *May*, and part of *June* are his chieſeſt Months, tho he bites well in *July*, *Auguſt* and *September*: After a ſhower in the evening he riſes well at Gnats. When he takes Minnow and Loach, *Vide Antea*.

7. In little Brooks which fall into large Rivers, where it Ebbs and Flows, only in freſh waters

ters or a little brackish, if you begin at the mouth of such Brooks, just as the Tide cometh in, and goeth up the Brook, with the Head of the Tide, and return with the Ebbing of the water, you will take good Trouts, and have much sport; and if the Tide do not muddy the water, they will also rise at the Fly at such a time.

8. *Vid. Cap.* 9. *Sect.* 12. 17. and 18.

9. In small clear Brooks, if you come in or immediately after a shower that hath raised the water, or take it just, as any Mill water beginneth to come down, and so go along with the course of the water: Trouts will then bite well: because they expect the water will bring down food with it, and they come forth to seek it, but in small Brooks, when the Mills stand, and keep up the Water, you'l have little or no sport at ground especially, and but little with Fly, for the Trout at such a time is fearful, and dares scarce venture out of hold.

10. When you Angle for Salmon or Trout, and all day long have had little or rather no sport, either at ground or fly; next night especially at the beginning of it, and until midnight or near it; they will not fail to bite either at ground or fly (as the season or water suits best for either) freely and eagerly, if the weather be not nipping cold or frosty.

11. When you Angle for Trout with fly, or ground-bait, you need not make above 3 or 4 tryals in one place: for he will then either take

take it, or make an offer, or not ſtir at all.

12. When Rains raiſe the Rivers, and almoſt continually keep them equal with their banks or above their ordinary height; Trouts leave Rivers and larger Brooks, and fly into ſuch ſmall Brooks as ſcarce run at all in Summers that are dry; in ſuch Brooks Angle for them: Trouts generally quit the great Rivers at *Michaelmas*, and go into ſmall Rills or Rivulets to Spawn, and are frequently there deſtroyed by idle, looſe and diſorderly fellows, with groping or otherwiſe; which does more injury to the breed of Fiſh than all the Summers Angling; for then they take all the Spawning Trouts. Thus I have known a River very plentifully ſtored with Trouts, in 3 or 4 years utterly ſpoiled.

13. When you Angle for Trout or Salmon with Worm or at ground, let your Bait drag on the ground as little as may be, but touch the ground it muſt, eſpecially for Trouts, but Mr. *Cotton* adviſes when you Angle with a float to let the bait be as near the bottom as you can, but not drag, which perhaps may do well, but the experience of the running Line contradicts his Opinion; for therewith the bait always drags, and there is no better way at ground yet known for the catching of Trouts, than the running Line; Yet I conſeſs if you Angle either with Cod-bait, Clap-bait, or water Cricket at Float, that the bait ſwimming very near the bottom as may be, but not touching it, may do beſt.

14. When

14. When you Angle for Trouts and only catch Minows, be assured that there are no Trouts there, therefore remove to another place.

CHAP. XI.

Observations on the Salmon.

Nature, Season, and Spawning time.

1. THE Salmon is called the King of fresh water Fish, breeds in Rivers relating to the Sea; yet so high as admits of no Tincture of it; they Spawn in the end of *August* or *September*, having delighted himself all the Summer in the fresh water (into which he comes at Spring,) in *October* he returns to the Sea, where he lives till Spring, and grows exceeding large, but in the fresh water he only grows fat in the Summer, and if about *Michaelmas* he chance to be stopt by Flood-gates or Weirs from going to Sea, and enforced to take up his Winter quarters in the fresh water, he grows sick, lean, unseasonable, kipper, insipid and tasteless, and in one year pines away and Dies. Their Age is about 10 years, and their growth is very sudden after they get into the Sea, as quickly as

a Gosling becomes a Goose: is about 5 months out of season after Spawning.

Haunts.

2. Salmons love large swift Rivers where it ebbeth and floweth; yet sometimes they are found in lesser Rivers high up the Country, chiefly in the latter end of the year, when they come thither to Spawn: He likewise delights in the swift and violent Streams, and the clearest gravelly Rivers, usually with Rocks or Weeds. He stays not long in a place (as the Trout will,) but is ambitious still to go nearer the Spring head; nor does he ly (as the Trout and many other Fish do) near the water side, or bank, or roots of Trees, but swims in the deep and broad parts of the Water, and usually in the middle and near the ground, but the small Salmon smelts commonly lye in the rough and upper part of a gentle Stream, and in the middle thereof.

Biting-time.

3. Salmons best biting time is 9 a Clock in the forenoon, and 3 in the afternoon in a clear water, and when some wind bloweth against the Stream, when struck he usually falleth to plunge and leap, but does not ordinarily endeavour to run to the end of the Line, as the Trout

Trout will, young Salmons are very tender mouthed.

Baits.

4. For a great Salmon, the principal ground bait is the Dew-worm well scowred, and for the small Salmon-smelt about bigness of a Trout, the Brandling and Gilt-tail are the best ground baits. They will likewise take exceeding well the Bob of both sorts, the Cod-bait and Waterlowse, and the counterfeit Cod-bait also in clear water.

For Flyes he takes the same that the Trout generally doth, whether natural or artificial, but the natural bait he generally takes better than the artificial fly, especially by the small ones.

If you put a Cod-bait or Gentle, either natural or artificial, but natural better, at point of your dub-fly hook, they will take the dub-fly better, especially the Salmon smelt.

Flyes made for the great Salmon, are better being made with 4 wings than with 2 only, and with 6 better than with them of 4, and if behind each pair of Wings you place a different colour for the body of the Fly, it is much the better, which argues that he loves to have several Flyes on the hook at once, for the Fly looketh as if it were divers Flies together.

The Wings must be made standing one behind the other, whether 4 or 6, also he delights

lights to have both body and wings of the most gaudy colour with long wings and tails; Silver twist and Gold twist are good to use in dubbing the bodies; he's caught at ground with running line or float, the bait touching, or as near the ground as possible, and sometimes he bites well lower than mid-water at ground baits. He's caught with dub fly and the Cod-bait, Clap-bait, water-Cricket, and the counterfeit Cod-bait at top of the water.

CHAP. XII.

Observations on the Umber *or* Grayling.

Haunt and Season.

1. UMber and Grayling differ only in name, they delight in marl, clay, clear waters, twift Streams and far from the Sea; *Dove*, *Trent* and *Derwen* in the Counties of *Derby* and *Stafford* are best stored with them of any Rivers in *England*; the biggest is not above 18 inches long, they are in Season all the year, but their principal Season is *December*, at which time he's black about head, gills and down his back, and has his belly of a dark grey dapled with black spots; his Flesh even in

his worst Season is firm, and will easily calver, and is excellent meat at all times, but when at best, little inferiour to the best Trout. He's a very nimble Fish, swift swimmer, but dead hearted after hooked, has his Teeth in his Throat, is eager and biteth freely, and will often bite at the same fly, if not prick't, he's tender mouth'd, and often lost by breaking hold.

2. When you Angle for him within water, his bait by no means must drag on the ground, he being a Fish that usually swims nearer the middle of the water, and lies always loose, and more apt to rise than descend even to a ground bait: therefore let your bait be about 6 or 9 Inches from the bottom, and use a float of Cork rather than a running line, if you Angle particularly for this Fish; but if for Trout and Grayling give a running line.

Baits.

3. His principal ground baits are Brandling, Gilt-tail, Tag-tail, Cod-bait, Bark-worm and Flag-worm, and at top he's taken either with the natural or artificial Palmers and Flies (especially the Camlet Fly, and a Fly made of light tawny hair Camlet) as the Trout are.

CHAP

CHAP. XIII.

Observations on the Pearch.

Haunt.

1. HE loves a gentle Stream of a reasonable depth, seldom shallow, close by a hollow bank, and although Salmon, Trout and Pearch delight in clear and swift Rivers, stony, gravelly and green woods, yet Pearches are sometimes found, but not in such plenty and goodness in slow, slimy and muddy Rivers; as about *Oxford*, and he frequents Creeks and hollownesses about the banks.

He's a very excellent, good, wholesom, and well tasted Fish, (especially the River Pearch) a bold biter, ravenous, and great devoures of other Fish, of slow growth, and not usually above 14 inches, and seldom about 10 or under.

Biting-time.

2. He'l not bite at all Seasons, being very abstemious in Winter, only in the middle of the day (as other Fishes then do) he'l then bite; in Summer he biteth all the day long in cool, cloudy, or windy weather; yet principally early in the forenoon until after 10 a

Clock, and from about 2 in the afternoon till about 6, and sometimes later, especially in hot weather and middle of Summer: He is strong, and will contend hard and long for his Life, they accompany one another in Troops, and if there be 30 or 40 in a hole, they may at one standing be catcht one after another; be sure you give him time to bite, for he's often mist for want of that.

Spawning time.

He Spawns but once a year, and that about *February* or *March*, and carries his Teeth in his mouth, which is large.

Baits.

His principal Baits are Brandling, Dew-worm and red-worm, all to be well scowred, and the Menow: He also takes Bobs, Oak-worms, Gentles, Cod-bait, Wasps, Colewort-worms, and sometimes any Bait but the Fly, which he never meddles with. He's best caught with a Float, your bait being about 6 inches from the ground, sometimes at midwater or lower, and some will suffer the bait to touch the ground, especially the Worm, and judge it best.

CHAP. XIV.

Observations on the Pope *or* Ruff.

POPE or Ruff is like the Pearch, both in nature, disposition and shape, but lesser, being no bigger than a large Gudgeon; is a better Fish and pleasanter tasted than a Pearch; a greedy biter, and commonly abundance of them lie together in one reserved place, where the water runs deep and quiedly, and one may catch 40 or 50 at a standing. His bait is the small red-worm or Giltail, and you are to use a float and bait to be about mid-water or lower.

CHAP. XV.

Observations on the Gudgeon.

OF Gudgeons the whitest are best, he desires sandy, gravelly, gentle Streams, and small Rivers rather than Brooks. In the heat of the Summer they are usually scattered up and down in Companies in the shallows of

every River; but in Autumn when the Weeds begin to grow lower or rot, and the weather colder, then they gather together, and retreat into the deeper parts of the River, and are to be Fished for there with a Float, and the bait must always touch or drag on the ground.

2. They are a wholesom and pleasant Fish, breed 3 or 4 times a year, and always in Summer when you Angle for them in Shallows, stir or rake the Sand or Gravel with a Pole, and they'l gather to that place and bite better.

Biting time and baits.

3. He bites from *March* till *Michaelmas*, in or near a gentle Stream; but will not bite when very cold, nor immediately after a shower or Land-flood; but will bite well in hot weather, his best baits are the Giltail or Brandling, then a small red-worm, and he'l take Cod-bait, Gentles or Wasps sometimes.

CHAP. XVI.

Observations on the Carp.

Points.

1. CARP seeks mud, and the deepest, stillest place of Pond or River, and gets weed

weeds which he loves exceedingly. If you cut weeds in a River, the better to make a place clear to Angle in for Carps, they will not (although they before haunted the place very much) come there again for 2 or 3 months, nor will they come near a Boat that you go in on a large Pond or River to Angle in for them, although Rushes or Weeds interpose: they are so wary, fearful and subtil, therefore stiled the *Fresh Water Fox*, and by others the *Queen of Rivers*.

Spawning time.

2. They breed better in Ponds than Rivers, but not at all in cold Ponds, in others 4 or 5 times a year, as their encrease is wonderful for their multitude, so in their decay mysterious all being often gone, and none knows how, they live 10 or 20 years, and are better for Age and bigness, and the largest is rarely above 18 inches long, they are a sweet and soft Fish, the Male better than the Female, and the white better than the yellow, and are at best in *March*, and will live long out of water, they begin to spawn at 3 years old; they'l feed on Grass in the Pond, or sides thereof.

Biting time.

3. They bite very early, and late in *April*, *May*, *June*, *July* and *August*, and in the Sum-

mer all night in the still pait of the water; keep quiet and out of sight when you Angle for them; when you strike him, if you give him not play he'l break all, for he's strong, will struggle long and stoutly. He's caught at mid-water, sometimes lower, sometimes higher, as the weather is; and use always a float: when a large Carp takes the Bait, he runs to the farther side of the River.

Baits.

4. Best baits for him are Gentles, Flag-worm, or Cod bait, and all sorts of sweet Pasts, then Marsh-worm or Gilt-tail; Mr. *Walton* advises to dip a piece of scarlet breadth of a Die in Oil of *Petre* or the Rock, and put it above the Hook, having a bait of Gentles below.

CHAP. XVII.

Observations on the Tench.

Haunts.

1. HIS Haunts and times of biting are the same generally with the Carp; yet I have known them in *April*, on a cloudy, misling rainy morning, the Wind South or West, and warm, bite very well until 11 a Clock. He like

Ponds better than Rivers, and Pits better than either; in some Pits they breed only, and never thrive to any bigness, and in others they'l thrive and never breed, and like the Eel, he loves muddy Ponds.

Spawning time.

2. They Spawn about the beginning of *July*, live long out of water, and by some esteemed the Physitian to other Fish, having a medicinal Balm on his skin, their best Season is from the end of *August* until *May day*.

Biting time.

3. Carp and Tench bite from Sun rise until 8 a Clock, and from 4 in the afternoon until after Sun-set, but in the hot months from Sun set all night.

Baits.

4. Angle for them with a Float about 2 foot within water, sometimes more sometimes less. His best bait is Gentles, Cod-bait, Flag-worm, Marsh worm, and Red-worm well scowred; and as you use your Worms, put them by themselves in a little Tar a little before used only, and try whether it advantages your Sport, which many affirm it do's, but I could never observe any advantage by it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

Observations on the Bream.

Haunts.

1. BReam is a large and stately Fish at full growth, is dangerous to eat by reason of bones, and is a kind of flat Carp. Breeds both in Rivers and Ponds, but in the latter better; if he likes the Water and Air he'l be very fat; is long in growing, yet a great breeder. Some say Breams and Roches mix their Spawn together, and so there becomes a Bastard breed of Breams; they swim in Companies and he likes a gentle Stream, and deepest and broadest part of a River or Pond. He's caught from Sun-rising till 8 a Clock in a muddy, slimy water, a good gale of Wind, and in Ponds the higher the Wind, and where the Waves are highest, and nearer the middle of the Pond the better; 3 a Clock and 4 in the afternoon are likewise good times to take them. He Spawns in *June* or beginning of *July*, is easily taken, for after one or two gentle turns, he falls on one side, and so is drawn to Land with ease.

Baits.

His baits are Red-worm and Giltails, well scowred,

scowred, Paste, Flag-worm, Wasps, a Grashopper his Legs cut off, and Flies under water: when he bites, he'l draw the bait towards the farther side of the River, Angle with a Float, and let the bait touch the ground.

CHAP. XIX.

Observations on the Barbel.

Haunts.

1. BArbel in Summer lives in the strongest swifts of the water, and under the shades of Trees, they much delight in the shallowest and sharpest Streams, and lurk under weeds, feeding on Gravel against a rising ground, where he'l root and dig in the Sand with his Nose like a Hog, and there nests himself, yet sometimes he lies about deep and swift waters, at Bridges, Floodgates or Weirs, where he'l remain among Piles or hollow places, and the swiftness of the water is not able to force him thence, at the approach of Winter he forsakes the swift Streams and shallow waters, and by degrees retires to those parts of the River that are quiet and deep.

Spawning time.

2. He's none of the best Fish, either for wholsomness or taste, they Spawn about *April*, and the Spawn is very unwholsom, almost Poyson, grow in season about a month after Spawning.

Biting time.

3. Bites early in the morning until 10 a Clock, and late in the evening from the end of *May*, all *June*, *July* and *August*; and is a cunning, wary, subtil and strong Fish, will struggle long, and unless dexterously managed, breaks both Rod and Line, they flock together like Sheep, and are at worst in *April*.

Baits.

4. His baits must be sweet, clean, well scowred, and not kept in musty, sowr Moss, and his bait must touch the ground, and to be Angled for with a Float. His prime baits are Gentles not too much scowred, so is new Cheese Paste, Red-worm and Dew-worm well scowred, he'l often nibble or suck the bait off the Hook, and yet avoid the Hooks coming into his mouth.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Observations on the Roch, Dace *or* Dare.

Haunts.

THey like Gravel and Sand, and the deepest part of the River, under shades of Trees; are Fish of no great esteem, very simple; become in Season within 3 weeks after Spawning; the Dace or Dare Spawn about the middle of *March*, and the Roch about the middle of *May*; he's called the *Fresh Water Sheep* for his Simplicity, and is caught in Ponds within 2 foot or less of the top; but the Dace should have his bait within 6 inches of the bottom, and sometimes to touch the bottom, best baits for them are the Earth bob, Gentles, Cod-bait, Clap-bait, Oak worm, and the Fly, especially the Ant Fly but within the water; and any Worm bred on Herbs or Trees, as Hawthorn-worm, Colewort and Cabbage-worm, Paste, Sheeps-blood, Lip-berries, Grain, Wasps, and small white Snails, *&c.* Angle for them in Ponds under water Dock leaves; they will likewise take Giltails and Brandlings, especially if the water be discoloured with Rain.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

Observations on the Chub or Cheyin.

Nature and Spawning time of the Chub.

CHub is no good Fish, timorous although large, must be eaten the same day he's caught, his Head is the best part of him, his Spawn is good, and he Spawns in *March*, and becomes in Season a month after Spawning, and is in season from *Mid-May* until after *Candlemas*, but his best season is Winter.

Haunt.

2. He likes sands and clay bottoms, large Rivers and Streams shaded with Trees; in Summer you'l find many together in a hole, sometimes floating on the top of the water, they may be then caught by dibbing, and in hot weather he's caught near the mid-water or top, in colder weather nearer the bottom, or at bottom by a Ledger bait, that is, when the bait rests on the ground in a certain or fixed place.

Biting time.

3. They bite from Sun-rising until 8 a Clock, and from 3 in the Afternoon till Sun set. After struck he quickly yields if a large one, but the lesser struggle briskly and longer.

Baits.

4. He'l take almost any sort of bait; but his best baits are seven eyes, and Eel brood, each about thickness of a Straw, also the Red-worm and Dew-worm well scowred, the Earth-bob, and brains of an Ox or Cow, Cheese, Paste, and the Pith or Marrow of an Ox or Cows neck bone, tenderly and carefully take off the outward tough skin, and be sure you leave the inward and tender white skin safe and untouched, or your labour is lost, which are very good baits for the cooler months. In the hot months he takes all sort of baits bred on Trees or Herbs, especially the Oak-worm, Crab-tree worm, Palmers, Catterpillars, Cod-baits, Gentles, the young brood of Wasps, Hornets and Humble-Bees, Beetles their Legs cut off, Dores, Grashoppers, Clap-baits, white Snails and black Snails their belly slit that the white appear, these Snails he takes very early in the morning, but not in the heat of the day. He likewise takes Lip-worms, Colemort worm, Cabbage-worm, Fern fly, and likewise a Moth with a

great

great head like an Owl, with whitish wings and a yellow body, they fly abroad in Summer evenings in Gardens; he loves a large bait, as a Wasp and a Colewort worm, and then a Wasp all on the hook at a time, and he would have divers sort of Flies on at once, and a Fly and a Cod-bait or Oak-worm together. He likewise take the great brown fly, which lives on an Oak like a scarabe.

How to Fish for him.

5. He's caught by a Float at mid water or lower, at top by dibbing, and at bottom by a ledger bait; when Cattel in Summer come into the Fords, their Dung draweth Fish into the lower end thereof, at such time Angle for Chub with tackle and baits suitable, and you'l have Sport. Take off the Beetles legs and uppermost Wings when you use him.

CHAP. XXII.

Observations on the Eel.

Their kinds.

1. THere are four sorts of Eels, the Silver Eel, the greenish Eel, the blackish Eel which hath a broader, flatter and larger head than

then ordinary, and the Eel with red Fins, the blackish Eel is the worst. They live about 10 years, and after they get into the Sea they never return: They are always in season, and the older the better; They are impatient of cold, for in the 6 cooler months they stir not up and down, neither in Rivers or Ponds, but get into the soft earth or mud, and there many of them bed themselves together, they seldom stir in the day time, unless the water be mudded and raised a little by rain, but is most usually caught in the night.

Haunts.

2. In the day time they hide themselves under some covert, roots of Trees, Stocks, Stones, Boards or Planks about Floodgates, Weirs, Bridges or Mills, or in holes in the Rivers bank; they are a pleasant and delicate Fish, and one may easily Surfeit on them: their best season is Winter, although they be always very good.

Baits.

3. Best baits are the Dew-worm, Red-worm and Lamprey that's very small, Menow, Loach very small Gudgeon and small Roch, a Hen Chickens Gut, the Dew-worm, Red-worm and small Lamprey are proper for him either the day or night, but the rest are to be used

with night-hooks only; as also is Beef or Horse-flesh, and sometimes in the day time an Eel will take the young brood of Wasps.

Ways of catching Eels.

4. He's caught in the day time by a ledge-bait, by singling or brogling and bobbing, and by night with laying of night-hooks.

Singling or brogling for Eels.

5. Brogling or Singling is thus performed: get an exceeding strong and long line, and a small compassed Hook, baited with a well scoured red worm, hold one end of the line in your hand, then place the upper end of your hook very easily in the cleft of a long Hasle stick, that it may easily slip out: With this stick and hook thus baited, search for holes under Stones, Timber, Roots, or about Floodgates or Weirs, and put the bait leasurely therein. If there be a good Eel, give her time and she'll take it, but be sure she hath swallowed it, then very leasurely draw her out.

Bobbing for Eels.

16. Bobbing for Eels is thus; Take the largest Garden worms well scowred, and with a Needle run a strong Thread through them from end to end; take and use so many, as

last you may wrap them slackly about your hand a dozen times at least, then tye them fast with the two ends of the thread, that they may hang in so many long boughts or hanks; then fasten all to a small strong Cord, and something more than a handful above the Worms, tye the Cord on a knot; then get a Lead Plumb 3 quarters of a pound weight, shaped like a Pyramid, and bore a hole through the middle of this Lead from end to end, so as the Cord may easily pass to and fro; then put the upper end of the Cord through the Plumb (the thicker end of the Plumb being downwards) and let the Plumb rest on the knot above the Worms, then fix the upper end of the Cord, which should not be above 2 yards long, to a strong and long Pole; Thus prepared, Angle in a muddy water, and you'l feel Eels tug strongly at them, when you think they have swallowed them as far as they can, gently draw up your Worms and Eels, and when you have them near top of the water, hoise them amain to Land, and thus you may take 3 or 4 at once, and good ones too, if store there be.

The knot on the Cord should be about 6 inches distant from the Worms.

These 2 ways of Singling and Bobbing, are proper only to Eels, no other Fish being to be taught so.

CHAP. XXIII.

Observations on the Pike.

Nature of Pike.

1. HE's a better Fish than the Carp, but a great devourer of other Fish, whereby he acquires the name of *Fresh Water Tyrant or Wolf*. He's long lived, as to live 20 or 30 years, others say, but 10; the Eel and Carp are better for Age, so is not the Pike, the middle size are best; his bites are venomous; he always swims by himself and not in company; he breeds but once a year, and that in *February* or *March*; he's a bold and greedy biter and is not afraid of a shadow or seeing people.

His Haunt.

2. He loves sandy or clay bottoms, shallow Pools, full of fry and shelters (the better to surprise his Prey unawares,) himself amongst Bulrushes, Water Docks or Bushes and often he bites about the middle of the River, and always about mid-water, the bait generally being in a continual gentle motion.

Distinguishing.

3. In *April*, *May*, *June* and beginning of *July* he bites best early in the morning, and late in the evening; and seldom to any purpose in the night of all the year; at 3 a Clock in the afternoon in *July*, *August*, *September* and *October* in a clear water and a gentle Gale in all places, or a gentle Stream. In *September* and all Winter months he bites all the day long, especially about 3 in the afternoon, the water being clear, the day windy.

Baits.

4. He takes all sort of baits, exceptFly, but his principal baits are Gudgeons, Roches, Daces, Menows, Loaches, young Frogs and Sallows smelts that are small, fresh, sweet and well stitched on the hook; for they are very tender, like a young Trout, young Jack, Pearch his back Fins cut off, and a piece of an Eel good bait likewise for the Pike.

5. He's caught 4 manner of ways, *viz.* by a Ledger bait, by Snap, Snare and Trowling; of all which you'l see hereafter in this book, but however procure some Angler the first time you Angle to accompany, and shew you the way.

CHAP. XXIV.

Observations on the Flook *or* Flounder.

FLOOK or Flounder is a Sea Fish which wanders far into fresh Rivers, and there dwells and loses himself, thriving to an handbreadth, and almost twice so long; is a pleasant Fish, and makes the Angler great Pastime, and although greedy biters, yet crafty, for they will nibble and suck at a bait some time before they swallow it; and if they perceive the hook fly from it; therefore let your bait be always in motion, and it will make them more eager: they commonly lie in the deepest and stillest place of the River, and near the bank, and in a gentle Stream that is brackish: His best baits are small red-worm, and especially the Meadow or Marsh-worm well scowred, your bait touching the ground, and the young brood of Wasps.

CHAP. XXV.

Observations on the Bleak.

BLeak is no wholsom Fish, because in Summer they go mad by reason of a Worm in their Stomachs, but the Sea-bleak is a good Fish. He's a very eager biter, and you may Angle for him with as many hooks on your line as you can conveniently fasten on it: He takes Gentles the best, and likewise the same baits that Roch does, but they must be lesser; also the Dub-fly, which should be of a very sad brown colour and small, and the hook so too; he's caught at mid-water or top; he is almost always in motion. The *Variate* or Sea-bleak changes its colour with every Light and Object having firm and wholsom Flesh, and is as good as any Carp, and its called the *Sea-Chamelion.*

CHAP. XXVI.

Observations on the Menow, Loach *and* Bullhead *or* Millers Thumb.

Menow.

THese Fish are of little consideration, only sometimes they are caught to make baits on for other Fish; else they are only Women and Childrens Sport.

The Minnow appears first in *March*, and continues until *Michaelmas*, and then betakes himself to the mud, weeds or wood in Rivers, to secure himself from Floods, devouring Trouts, and other Fishes of Prey.

He least frequents deep, still places or holes where Trouts or great Fish ply, neither stirs in the night nor in dark windy weather, for fear of becoming a Prey to the Trouts and other Fish; his most usual time is from an hour after Sun-rising (if the day prove fair) till an hour before Sun-set. His baits are chiefly small Worms, Giltail, Brandling, Cod-bait, *&c.* and is caught either at mid-water, or near or close to the bottom.

Loach

Loach and Bullhead.

Loach is a pleasant Fish, breeding and feeding in clear, swift Brooks or Rills living in the sharpest Streams, and on the Gravel, and often under Stones; he something resembles an Eel in shape, and both Loach and Bullhead being of one nature and humour, their Female are in Summer often full of Spawn, they are always caught on the bottom, the bait touching the ground, and their best bait is the small red-worm and giltail.

The Menow, Loach and Bullhead (his Gill fins cut off) are very good baits for the Trout in *March*, *April* and *September*, and for the Pike and Pearch all the year, and for the Eel from *March* till *Michaelmas* to bait night hooks therewith.

CHAP. XXVII.

Various ways of Angling, and of the Running Line.

ALL sorts of Fish take baits at the ground sometimes, although all will not take the fly at top of the water; and the Running Line without any float thereon, is the most proper way

How to Angle with the Running Line in a muddy water.

1. The running Line in a muddy water, or one discoloured by Rain, should be half length of Rod, and the two lowmost links of 3 hairs a piece, then one of 4 hairs, at top whereof have a loop or waternoose to put it to another link of four hairs, having likewise a waternoose or loop at bottom; and then proceed with 5 and 6 to the topmost; the 3 lowmost gildards should be of a Sorrel, Brown or Chesnut colour; and have a Cane-rod with a top neither too stiff nor too slender, but in a mean, and 5 yards and a half long at least.

2. The Line should have so much and no more Lead than will fit the water you Angle in, *viz.* more in a great troublesom, rough River, than in a smaller that's quieter, as near as may be so much as will sink the bait to the bottom, and permit its motion without any great hesitation, and in Angling carry the top or point of the Rod even with your hand gently downwards, (for you must begin at the head of the Stream) the Lead dragging and rowling on the ground, no more of the Line being in the water then will permit the Lead to touch the bottom (for you must keep the Line as streight as possible, yet by no means so as to raise the Lead from the ground) and when they have bit, you'l both feel and perceive by the

point

point of your Rod and Line, and ſtrike gently and ſtreight upwards, firſt allowing the Fiſh (by a little ſlackning the Line) a ſmall time to take the bait.

But ſome ſtrike at the firſt biting, but that is in a clear water for Trouts or Salmon ſmelts, which may do well: Your bait ſhould be a red-worm well ſcowred, or, which is better, a Brandling or Tagtail, or which I like beſt, both a Brandling and a Giltail on the hook at ſame time, to be baited as is hereafter directed to bait two worms to be on the hook at once: and note, that you are often to renew your bait, and generally in a muddy water I Angle with two Worms on the hook at once, as 2 Brandlings, 2 Meadow-worms or a Brandling and Giltail on the hook at once; when I Angle for Trouts unleſs I uſe the Dew-worm, a Trout takes the bait dragging on the ground, but a Grayling 9 or 12 inches from the bottom, and had rather riſe than deſcend even to a ground bait.

As for the Leading of the running Line with Plumbs, you are before taught at *chap.* 3. *ſect.* 10, 11, 12.

To bait a great Dew-Worm.

3. If you Angle for a great Trout with a well ſcowred Dew-Worm in a muddy water, or a water diſcoloured by Rain, bait it thus, *viz.* way to Angle for the Trout with Worm, either in a muddy or clear water at ground.

Hold

put the hook in him towards the tail somewhat above the middle, and out again a little below towards the head, then draw him above the whipping or arming of the hook, then put the point again into the head of the Worm, till it come near the place where the point of the hook first came out, then draw back that part of the Worm that was above the shank or arming of the hook, and so Fish with it, the Hook should be pretty large.

How to bait Worms.

4. But if you Angle in a muddy water for Trouts of the usual size, then have 2 Brandlings or two Meadow-worms, or a Brandling and Giltail on the hook at once, and you are to bait them thus, *viz.* run the point of the hook in at the very head of the Brandling, and so down through his body till it be past the knot, and then let it out, and strip the Worm above the whipping (that you bruise it not with your fingers) till you have put on the other, by running the point of the hook in below the knot, and upwards through his body towards the head, till it be just covered with the head, which being thus done, slip the first worm over the arming again, till the knots of both worms meet together. Any 2 Worms may be thus baited.

How

How to bait a single Worm proper for running line in a clear water.

5. But if you Angle with one Worm only on the hook (which is most proper for a Trout, Salmon Smelt or Grayling in a clear water) it is to be baited thus, *viz.* put the point of the hook in at the top of his tail, and run up his body quite over all the whipping or arming, and still strip on almost an inch upon the hair, the head and remaining part hanging downwards, and covering the point of the hook, but some let the head hang downwards, and the point of the hook to be bare, and so Angle with it.

But others cover the point of the hook with the Worms head, as aforesaid, but nip off the very tip end of the Worms head, and so Angle with it.

How to Angle in clear water with running Line.

6. Thus you are to bait the Brandlings or Giltail, and onely one to be on the hook at a time well scowred, your hook being small, your lines should have 2 or 3 of the lowermost links or gildards to be of one hair a piece, then one or two links of 2 hairs a piece, and then one of 3 hairs, and so proceed with 3 and 4 to the topmost link: the hair should be white, or rather

rather a duskish white or grey colour, and the line 2 yards shorter than rod generally, and leaded with a small pellet of shot for plumb, (*vid. cap.* 3. *sect.* 10. 11, 12.) thus tackled and baited, Angle always in the Streams, evermore in a clear, rather then troubled water, and always up the Stream and Rivers, still casting out the worm before you with a light one handed rod (5 yards and a half long at the least,) like an artificial Fly; where sometimes it will be taken at the top, or within a very little of the superficies of the water, and commonly before the light plumb can sink it to the bottom, both by reason of the Stream, and that you must always keep your hand in a motion, although slowly, by drawing still back towards you, as if you were Angling with a Fly. The Rod must be light, pliant, long, true and finely made, and its the best way of Angling for Trout, Grayling and Salmon smelts with Worms in a clear water (but others had rather use with like Tackle and Worm, Ash-grub or Dock-worm, a float of Cork for a Grayling: because he takes his bait best 6 or 9 inches from the ground,) now if your Constitution would endure to wade into the tail of a shallow Stream, and so keep off the bank, you may almost take what Trouts or Graylings you can desire.

Vid. before cap. 2. *sect.* 12. 15.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Float ANGLING.

Float Angling.

1. FOR Float Angling your Line is to be longer than rod by 2 or 3 foot in a River, but shorter than Rod in Pits, Ponds, and Mears. When you Angle for Trout or Grayling in a clear water, then but one hair next hook, and such a Rod and Line as is directed for a Trout with Running Line in a clear water, but for most other Fish, and in a muddy water, three hairs at least next hook, and of the thickness as before is directed, *cap.* 2. *sect.* 14. and 17. and let it be leaded as is directed *cap.* 3. *sect.* 10, 11, 12.

2. The bait must be proper for the Fish you Angle for, your Plumbs fitted to the Cork, your Cork to the condition of the River, that is to the swiftness or slowness of it, (*vid.* before *cap.* 3. *sect.* 5. 6, 7, 8. and 9.) and you must cast the bait up the River, and let it run downward as far as the Rod and Line will suffer. In a clear water when you use worms, bait but with one in a muddy or discoloured water, bait with 2 Worms at a time, as is before directed.

3. This way you may Angle for most sort of

of Fish, and the bait must drag on the ground for some sorts, especially the Trout, Gudgeon, Bream, Barbel, Flounder and Salmon, but for Grayling and Pearch 6 or 9 inches from the bottom, but the Pike, Ruff, Carp, Tench, Roch, Dace, Bleak at mid-water, sometimes lower and sometimes higher, the Chub is often taken at the bottom, sometimes at mid-water in hot weather, sometimes at top; some let the bait touch the ground for Pearch, Tench, Roch and Dace, especially in Rivers, and like it best, although others disallow thereof. Mr. *Cotton* directs to Angle for a Trout with Float as near the bottom one can, so as the bait drag not, which is difficult, if not impossible to be observ'd, by reason of the declivity of the bottom, and unevenness thereof in most places, and the experiment of the running line shews that a Trout will take the bait at bottom well enough. The Eel is never to be Angled for with a float, but always with the ledger bait, singling or bobbing.

4. Let your Lead neither be so heavy as to sink the Cork, nor so light, as not with the smallest touch to make the Cork dip under water, the infallible signal of a bite, unless the bait stop on Wood, Stones or Weeds, or the line be entangled.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

Angling at top with a Worm.

FOR this way you must use a Line longer than the Rod, and a Brandling or a Giltail Worm, without Float or Lead: Drawing your bait up and down the Stream at top as you do a Cod-bait for Trout: In a clear water and day, perhaps you may thus take more Trouts and Salmon smelts than otherwise.

CHAP. XXX.

Night-Angling.

1. IN the night usually the best Trouts bite, and will rise ordinarily in the still deeps, but not so well in the Streams; and although the best and and largest Trouts bite in the night (being afraid to stir in the day time,) yet I account this way of Angling both unwholsome, unpleasant and very ungentile, and to be used by none but idle pouching fellows; therefore I shall say nothing of it, only describe how to lay night-hooks, which if you live close by a River side, or have a large Moat or Pond at your own house, will not be unpleasant some-

times to practice; but as for damming, groping, spearing, hanging, switching, firing by night, and netting, I will purposely omit them, and them esteem to be used only by disorderly Fellows; for whom this little Treatise is not in the least intended.

How to lay Night Hooks.

2. Let him that would lay night hooks, procure a small Cord 16 yards long, and thereunto at equal distances tye 5 or 6 Hemp lines of the thickness of a trouling line, 2 foot long a piece, (but tye them so to the Cord, as you may easily remove or put them to again;) to each of which whip a hook, and bait the same with a Menow, Loach or Bushead, his Gill-fins cut off, or for want of them a small Gudgeon, small Roch or seven eyes, and put the point of the hook in at the tail and out at the mouth, the head of the Fish resting in the hooks bent, and cover the point of the hook with a small worm, and then to one end of the Cord fasten a stone or lead weight, and throw it cross the River in some still deep, or at the tail of a Stream that's deep, and the other end fasten to some Bough or stick on the water bank you stand on, and in the morning you'l not fail to find Fish caught.

This way you'l take Eels, Chubs, large Trouts and Pike, but if you lay for Pike, let not your bait go to the bottom, but with a float

float keep it from the bottom about a foot; for the other Fish let the bait touch the bottom, which Lead will cause. Your great Lob-worm is as good a bait as any for night-hooks, only if you lay them in Rivers; perhaps the small Fish may pull your bait off, and miss being taken.

CHAP. XXXI.

Observations on Mid-water or Ground-Angling.

WHen you Angle with Running Line, (which is always to be without any float) keep your Line so streight that it only permit your Lead to touch the ground, and thereon rowl, and no more, so in float Angling keep your Line as streight as possible, suffering none of it to fall or lye in the water but what is inevitable; because it as well scares Fish, as hinders the nimble jerk of the Rod when you strike; but if, as sometimes you cannot avoid, but some little will lye in the water, then keep it in the stream above the float, by no means below it; and let your bait always fall gently into the water without any disturbance, circling or hanging in the water as little as you possibly may.

2. When you Angle at ground for small Fi as Gudgeons, or at mid-water for Roch an Bleak, put 2 or 3 hooks on your line, the o 9 inches lower than the other, which you m do, by having 2 or 3 gildards armed or whi with hooks, and tyed at the lowermost wa knot: Thus you may put on 2 or 3 differe baits, and you'l try with more ease and le time which is best taken, and often catch tw or three at once, but if your bait be to run o the ground (as for Gudgeon,) you must ha a fair, sandy bottom, free from Wood, Sto and Weeds; your Lead is always to be on t lowermost link.

3. Give all Fish time to take and swallow t bait, especially Pike, Gudgeon, Pearch, and i a muddy water Trout, being not over hast unless you Angle with such tender baits as w not endure nibling at, but must upon eve touch be struck at, (as Pasts, Sheeps blood, Fli &c. which are taken away at the first pull of t Fish,) and therefore at first pull oblige you t try your fortune.

4. Angle for all sorts of Fish in their haun and places they most frequent and are describ to be: and at the proper seasons and times biting (which you may see in the particul Chapter of each Fish,) and with suitable tack and baits.

5. When you Angle with Worm in a cle water, sometimes put after the Worm, and

the point of the hook a Godbait, Bob, or Gentle.

6. When you use Paste or very tender baits, have a small hook, quick eye, nimble rod, a little stiff, and a ready hand, or all will be lost, both bait and Fish, which must in such case be struck, at the very first touch.

7. Many when they Angle for Trouts and Smelts in a clear water, strike as soon as they have bit, which is easily perceived by motion of the Rods point or Line.

8. When you Angle at ground for Salmons, put 2 or 3 Garden Worms well scowred on your hook at once, and dispose your self as when you Angle at ground for a Trout.

9. If you Angle for Pearch or Trout, and catch Menows, be assured that neither Pearch nor Trouts are there, because they are great devourers of those Fish.

CHAP. XXXII.

Angling with a Ledger bait.

SOME persons (especially when tyred, and mindful to rest their wearied Limbs) betake themselves to Angle with a Ledger bait, which is, when a bait always rests in one fixed certain place; and is so called in opposition to other baits that are always walking, or in mo-

tion, thence called walking baits; the manner of the Ledger bait is thus.

Take off your Cork from your float-line, it being leaded as usually, and within half a yard of the top of the line, wrap about it a thin plate of Lead, one inch broad, and an inch and half long, then put your line to your rod, and bait your hook, and cast the same into a very gentle Stream, or still slow draught, and there let the bait sink and rest on the bottom, you either firmly holding the Rod, or sticking the thick end therof in the River bank, and either standing or sitting by it, will perceive by the motion of the Lead on the Lines top when they have him. This way you may Angle for all manner of Fish whatsoever, especially the Chub and Eel.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Natural Fly Angling.

Dibbing.

ANgling with the natural Fly (called Dibbing, Depeing or Dibling) is first to be spoken to, and it will serve as an introduction to Angling with the Artificial Fly.

1. Dibbing is always performed on the surface of the Water, or sometimes by permitting

the bait to sink 2, 4, or 5 inches into the water, but that seldom, unless you join a Cod-bait or Clap-bait with the Oak-fly for Trout or Chub.

3. This Dibbing is principally performed with the Green Drake or Stone-fly, or with the Oak-fly and Cod-baits, or with Cod-baits, Clap-baits, Cankers, Palmers, Catterpillars, Oak-worm and Hawthorn-worm or Grub, and sometimes with an artificial Green-Drake or Stone-fly.

4. The Salmon, Trout, Grayling, Bleak, Chub, Roch and Dace are the only Fish that will take Flies, the 4 first take the natural Fly no better than the Dub-fly, except in very hot calm weather, at which time its most proper to dib; the rest take natural Flies either at top or under water, and sometimes a Dub-fly, if a Cod-bait, Oak-worm, Clap-bait or Gentle be joyned with it, and put on the point of the hook with it, but that rarely.

Dibbing for Trout or Grayling.

5. Dibbing for Trout or Grayling is performed with a line about half length of Rod, if the Air be still, or with one almost as long as Rod, if there be a Wind to carry it from you, (have 4 hairs next hook, but 5 for the Chub,) wherein always have the Fly play or fly before you up and down the River as the Wind serves and Angle as near as you can to the bank of the

side whereon you stand, although where you see a Fish rise near you, you may guide your quick fly over him, whether in the middle or on the contrary side, and if you are pretty well out of sight, either by kneeling or the interposition of a bank or bush, you may almost be sure to raise and take him too, if it be presently done; the Fish will otherwise peradventure be removed to another place, if it be in the still Deeps where he is always in motion, and roving up and down for Prey, tho' in a Stream you may always almost, especially if there be a good Stone near, find him in the same place. You may likewise Dib with the Water-Cricket, or Creeper, in the Streams in the month of *April*, above an inch of your line is not to be in the water, therefore you may be stronger tackled.

How to bait the May-fly for Dibbing.

6. The Green-Drake and Stone-fly all allow to be *May-Flies*, therefore take one of them, (for commonly two are used,) and put the point of the hook into the thickest part of his body, under one of his Wings, run it directly through, and out at the other side, leaving him spitted crois on the hook, then taking the other, put him on after the same manner, but with his head the contrary way, in which posture they will live on the hook, and play with their wings a quarter of an hour, and let them

but

but just touch the water, but if you Dib with an Oak-fly or a Cod-bait, put the Oak-fly on length ways in under his head and out at his tail, and a Cod-bait on point of the hook, and let them sink a little into the water, and they are a killing bait, especially in some Rivers.

Dibbing for Chubs.

7. In hot weather you'l find Chubs floating near or on the top of the water; then get secretly behind some Tree or Bush, standing as free from motion as possible; let your hook hang a foot short of the water, to the end you may rest your Rod on some Bush or Bough of a Tree, and the Chub in all probability will sink down towards the bottom of the water at first sight or shadow of the Rod, and would so do if a Bird fly over him, yet presently rises to the top again, soaring there till frighted again by some shadow; look out the best, moving your Rod as gently as a Snail to that you intend to catch, let your bait fall gently on the water 5 or 6 inches before him, and he'l seldom refuse the bait; you may Angle thus with Catterpillars, Oak-worm, Ash-fly and Cod-bait, Clap-bait, Crab-tree-worm, Wasps, young Humble Bees, Fern-flyes, Grashopper, Beetles, &c. and have 2 or 3 sorts of bait on at once, as a Fern-fly, Clap-bait or Wasp, and if on side of a Stream let the bait sink a foot,

Rules for Dibbing.

1. You may Dib with the Green-Drake both in Streams and Stills, all hours of the day, but the Stone-fly is most proper for the Streams only, and that early and late, and not in the mid-time of the day: but if there be a whistling Wind in the evening, Dib in the still deeps with an artificial Stone-fly, where and when it will murder, and the best Fish then and there rise, no matter how late so you can see the Fly.

2. When you bait any sort of Fly let your Fingers be dry, and not wet or moist, lest you spoil the Fly, especially if tender.

3. Keep out of sight if possible; for to Fish fine and far off is the great rule in all manner of Fly Angling; for if a Fish be coming towards a Fly, and perceive one, he'l turn short, therefore keep your Fly gently moving on top of the water as if it were alive, your self out of sight.

4 When you Dib for Chub, Roch, Dace, move not the Fly swiftly when you see the Fish coming towards it, but rather after one or two short and slow removes, suffer the Fly to glide gently with the current towards the Fish, or if in a standing or very slow water, draw the Fly slowly, not directly upon him, but slopeing and sideways by him, which will make him more eager least it escape him, for if you move

it

it nimbly and quick, they will not (being Fish of slow motion, follow as the Trout will.

5. When Chub, Roch and Dace shew themselves on the top of the water on a Sun-shine day, they are easily caught with baits proper for them, and you may almost choose from amongst them which you please to take.

6. Chub, Roch and Dace sometimes take an artificial fly with a Cod-bait, Oak-worm or a Clap-bait at point of the hook, and the Oak-worm when they shew themselves, is full as good on the top of the water as under, or then the Fly it self, and more desired by them.

7. Trouts, Graylings and Salmon Smelts will take an Artificial Fly very well at Dibbing, particularly best the Green-Drake, and likewise the Stone-fly early or late in the evening, and if you could but hit the colour of the Oak-fly a-right, and joyn a Cod-bait either natural or artificial, there would be no need of the natural Oak-fly; if you Dib for Salmon smelts with the Dub-fly, put on a Cod-bait, Clap-bait or Gentle at point of the hook.

8. In a calm you will not have so much sport even with Dibbing, as in a whistling gale of Wind, both because you then are not so easily discover'd by the Fish, and also then but few Flies can lye on the water, for where they have so much choice they will not be so eager and forward to rise at a bait, that both the shadow of your body, rod, nay very line, in a hot, calm day, will in spite of your best caution, ren-

der

der suspected to them, but even then in swift Streams with the Groen-Drake or Stone-fly, by sitting patiently behind a bush you may do execution.

9. All Fish take the Fly sometimes best on top of the water at another time much better a little under the superficies of the water, therefore if they will not rise at the top, try them a little under, but Chub, Roch and Dace will frequently take the Fly within water.

10. Fish never eagerly rise at any Fly until that kind come to the Rivers side, which all Flies do before they die to moisten their wings, and from the bushes and herbs skip and play upon the water, where they are suapt up by the Fish.

11. To know what Flies Fish take, beat on the Bushes on the Rivers bank, and see what Fly falls and Fish take best, and that use, *vid. cap. 7 sect.* 11. *cap.* 4. *sect.* 35.

CHAP. XXXIV.

Artificial Fly Angling.

NOW I shall treat of artificial, Dub-fly or Cast-fly Angling (for so its stiled in several places) and herein I find it no small difficulty by written directions perfectly (altho' I shall attempt it) to teach any (tho' as ingenious

nious as may be) how to make an artificial or dub-fly, therefore the best and readiest way is to procure some skilful Fly Angler to let you see one made, and by observing the following Rules, and then your own Experience and Observations in a short time will make you a perfect Artist. The great difficulty is to obtain the right colour of the Fly Fish then take, which none can make a general description of, because several Rivers and Soils produce several and divers Flies, as the Mossy and Boggy have one sort particular to them, the Clay, Gravelly and Mountainous Country and Rivers others; and the mellow light Soil different from them all; but much earlier in some places than others, nay in *Wales* and other Countreys there are peculiar Flies proper to the particular place and Country: And my own Experience has abundantly satisfied me, that almost in every River the Flies vary in colour, kind, shape or proportion, and that in all places the same Flies are taken much earlier in some Rivers and Years than others; nay, in the very same River and Year I have known the Stone-fly taken a month earlyer at 5 or 6 miles distance lower than higher up the same River; therefore the Angler having observed and found the Fly Fish most affect at the very present time, let him make one as like it as possibly he can in colour, shape and proportion of body and wings, and for his better imitation, let him lay the natural Fly before him, and try

how

near art can come unto, or dissemble nature by an equal symetry and commixture of colors. The better to attain which end, the Angler must always have in readiness a large Magazine Bag or Budget, plentifully furnished with the following materials.

Bears hair.

1. Bears hair of divers colours and shades are the most excellent Dibbing, as Grey Dun, light coloured, sad coloured and bright shining Beart hair.

Camels hair.

2. Camels hair, sad, light, and of an indifferent colour.

Badgers hair.

3. Badgers skin hair, that is the brownish soft Fur which is on some part of the Badgers skin, is very good dubbing after the skin is tewed.

Spaniels hair.

4. Spaniels soft Fur and hair of divers colours and parts of the Spaniel, as on the Ear, &c. as brown, sad brown, light brown, blackish and perfect black.

Dogs

Dogs hair.

5. Get the like colours from a black water-Dog, and from a long coated Cur, and a smooth coated Cur.

Hogs Down.

6. Be sure to procure from Butchers or others, black, red, whitish and sanded Hogs Down, such as is combed from the roots of the hair, or bristles of Hogs of those colours, or of spots on them of those colours.

Sheeps Wool.

7. Sheeps Wool of all colours both natural and artificial, get the coursest Sheeps Wool, and the Dyer (especially the Silk Dyer) will make it you of any colour you judge convenient, and such as will best abide in the water, for your colours should have that property.

Mohairs.

8. Mohairs of all colours, especially the following, *viz.* black, blew, purple, white, violet coloured, and Isabella and Philomot coloured Mo-hairs;

Cows hair.

9. Get soft hair and Furs from the Flanks and other soft parts of a black Cow, red Cow and brindled Cow, and of these have brown, sad brown, light brown, and perfect black hair and furs.

Camlets.

10. Get pieces of Camlets both hair and worsted of all colours, especially the following, *viz.* blew, yellow, dun, brown, dark-brown, light-brown, red, violet, purple, tawny, black, dark brown shining Camlet, dark violet, horse flesh, pink and Orange coloured.

Abortive Colts and Calves hair.

11. Resort to a Skinners Lime-Pit, and there get hair of various colours; and you may get most excellent Dubbing of Castling skins of Calves and Colts that are tewed, and several colours and shades of one skin. So of Cushions made of such skins that have been neatly tewed in the Skinners Lime-Pit, so of Abortive skins of Colts and Calves at Skinners Lime-Pits tewed, *&c.*

Furs,

Furs.

12. Furs of the ensuing Animals, *viz.* Furs of Squirrels, and Squirrels tail, black Cats tail, yellow dun-Cat, Hares neck fern-colour white Weesels tail, Mole, black Rabbet, yellow Rabbet, Down of a Fox Cub ash-coloured at roots, Fur of an old Fox, blackish and brown soft Fur, and hair of a Badgers skin that has been tewed in a Skinners Lime-Pit, Marterns fur, Filmers Fur.

Hackles.

13. Hackles (which are Feathers about a Cock or Capons neck, such as hang dangling down on each side next a Cock or Capons tail) of all colours as the red, dun, yellowish, white, Orange coloured, and perfect black; these are of special use to make the Palmer fly or insect, called by some Wool-beds.

Feathers.

14. Feathers of all sorts of Fowls, and all colours, as feathers on a Mallards back, brown Hen, Partridge, Throstle, Feathers got from the quill out of a Wing of the Shepstare, Stare or Sterling, Peacock herle, Herons neck, top or cop of a Plover or Lapwing, the black Feather of an Ostridge or Estridge, and those of

various Died colours, which Children and others wear in Caps, the black Down of a water Coot, sad brown Feather of a Kite, feather of a Fesant Quill, feather of a Crow quill, and feathers of all other colours and Birds.

Cadows and Blankets.

15. Of outlandish Cadows and Blankets of divers colours are very often got excellent Dubbing, so of Cassions made of Aborder Calves and Colts skins, and Badgers skins and Calves skins tewed.

Silk.

16. Silk of all colours, small but very strong.

Twist.

17. Silver twist, Gold twist.

18. A sharp and neat pair of Scissars.

How to make a Dub-fly.

These materials being ready, you may make your Fly after the following manner, being the most exact way of all others, and its performed thus, *viz.* You are first to hold the hook fast betwixt the Fore-finger and Thumb of your left hand, with the back of the flies

upwards, and the point towards your Fingers end; then take a strong small Silk of the colour of the Fly you intend to make, Wax it well with Wax of the same colour too (to which end you are always to have Shoo makers Wax of all colours about you) and draw it betwixt your Finger and Thumb to the head of the shank, and then whip it twice or thrice about the bare hook, which you must know is done both to prevent slipping, and also that the shank of the hook may not cut the hairs of your tought Gilderd or line, (which sometimes it will otherwise do,) which being done, take your line, and draw it likewise betwixt your Finger and Thumb, holding the hook so fast, as only to suffer it to pass by, until you have the knot of your tought almost to the middle of the shank of your hook on the inside of it, then whip your Silk twice or thrice about both hook and line, as hard as the strength of the Silk will permit, which being done, strip the feather for the wings proportionable to the bigness of your Flie, placing that side downwards which grew uppermost before, upon the back of the hook, leaving so much only as to serve for the length of the wing of the point of the plume, lying reversed from the end of the shank upwards, then whip your Silk twice or thrice about the root end of the Feather, close by the arming, and then whip the Silk fast and firm about the hook, and tought until you come to the bent of the hook, but not far-

further (as some do, and so make a very unhandsom, unnatural and shapeless Fly) which being done, cut away the end of the tought and fasten it, and then take your Dubbing which is to make the body of the Fly, as much as you think convenient, and holding it lightly with your hook, betwixt the Finger and Thumb of your left hand, take your Silk with the right, and twisting it betwixt the Finger and Thumb of that hand, the Dubbing will spin it self about the Silk, which when it has done, whip it about the aren'd hook backward till you come to the setting on of the wings, and then take the feather for the Wings and divide it equally into 2 parts, and turn them back towards the bent of the hook, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side of the shank, holding them fast in that posture betwixt the Fore-finger and Thumb of your left hand, which done, warp them so down as to stand and slope towards the bent of the hook, and having warpt up to the end of the shank, hold the Fly fast betwixt the Finger and Thumb of your left hand, and then take the Silk betwixt the Finger and Thumb of your right hand, and where the warping ends, pinch or nip it with your Thumb nail against your Finger, and strip away the remainder of your dubbing from the Silk, and then with the bare Silk whip it once or twice about, make the Wings to stand in due order, fasten and cut it off, after which with the point of a Needle

raise up the Dubbing gently from the Warp, twitch off the superfluous hairs of your Dubbing, leave the Wings of an equal length (otherwise your Fly will never swim true,) and the Work is done: thus you are to make the Dub-fly, but your Palmer fly is made of a Capon or Cocks hackle, twirled on Silk and warpt about the hook, and without any Wings, and sometimes a little Dubbing under.

Rules for Dub-flies and its Angling.

1. In making Dub-flies chiefly observe and imitate the Belly of the Fly, for that colour Fish most take notice of, as being most in their eye, and let the Wings of the Fly always be of an equal length, else the Fly will not swim right and true.

2. When you try how to fit the colour of the Fly, wet the Dubbing lest you be mistaken; for although when dry, they exactly suit the colour of the Fly, yet the water alters most colours, and will make them brighter or darker.

3. Always make your Dub-flies on a Sunshine day, and to know the exact colour of your Dubbing, hold the same betwixt your eye and the Sun, and you'l far better discover the true colour of the Dubbing, then only by looking on it in the hand in the house, dark day or a shady place.

4. Never let the tail of the Dub-fly descend lower than until you come to the bend of the

hook, and not into the hooks bent, as they generally do in the South, and so make very unartificial and unnatural Flies.

5. When Trouts often shew themselves at your Fly, and yet do not take it, be assured that either the day or water is improper for Fly, or which is far more probable, your Dub-fly is not of the right colour or shape they then covet.

6. Some always advise to Dub with Silk of the most predominant colour of the Fly, but we generally dub Duns with yellow Silk, and our Browns with red Silk, and at *September* with Violet Silk, or Horse-flesh coloured Silk.

7. Flies made of the hair of Bears, Hogs, Squirrels tail, Camels, Dogs, Foxes, Badgers, Cows, Calves skins rewed; abortive Calves and abortive Colts skins rewed, out landish Cadows are more natural, lively, and keep colour better in the water, then Flies made of Crewel and many sort of Worsted Stuffs which are of a dead and dull colour in the water.

8. The feather got from the quill of a Sheep, Stare, Stare or Starlings wing is the best Feather generally to be used in dubbing, and better than the Drake feather.

9 The Stone-fly, the green-Drake, Thorn-tree fly, green tail Dun-cut, yellow dun, dark brown, early bright brown, later bright brown, great dun, little whirling dun, great whirling dun, Badger-fly, Ant-fly, black May-fly, yellow May-fly, Camlet-fly and the Palmer-fly, Silver Hackle and Gold Hackle are Flies sufficient

to be furnished with the Hackles and the Stone-fly being the very ground of all Fly-Angling.

10. When you Angle with Dub-fly it must be in a River either clear, or almost clear after Rain, or in a Moorish River discoloured by Moss or Bogs, or else in a dark, cloudy day, when a gentle gale of Wind moves the water, but if the Wind be high, yet so as you may guide your tools, they will rise well in the plain Deeps, and then and there you'l commonly kill the best Fish, but if the Wind be little or none at all, you must Angle in the swift Streams.

11. Keep your Dub-fly in continual motion, tho' the water or day be dark, or wind blow, otherwise the Fish will disdain and refuse it.

12. Angling in Rivers discoloured by Rain or passing through Mosses or Bogs or if the water be dark or very full, use a larger bodyed Fly than ordinary.

13. If the water be clear and low, use a small bodyed Fly with slender Wings.

14. If the day be clear, use a light coloured Fly with slender body and wings.

15. In dark weather as well as dark water, the Fly must be dark.

16. As Summer approaches and water clears, Flies generally are made smaller and brighter.

17. When you Angle with Dub-fly, your Rod should be no less than 5 yards and half long, and the line twice so long, unless the water be encumbered with Wood or Trees.

18. Some advise for every Fly to have 3, one of a lighter colour, another sadder, and a third the exact colour of the natural Fly, by which means you may the better adapt them to the colour of the Water and Sky.

19. Fish rarely take the Dub-fly in any slow River, whose bottom or ground is slime or mud; for in great droughts Fish bite but little in any Rivers, but nothing in slimy Rivers whose Mud is not cool'd by the swiftness of the Currant, but in sandy, gravelly, stony or rapid Rivers, you may catch Fish at that time.

20. You must have a quick eye, a nimble Rod and Hand, and strike with the rising of the Fish, or they find their mistake, and putteth out the hook again; others are of Opinion never to offer to strike a good Fish, if he do not strike himself, till first you see him turn his head after he has taken the Fly, and then say they, The tackle will not strain in striking, if moderately you strike.

21. When you cast the Fly, wave the Rod with a small circumference about your head, else the Fly will be apt to jerk or snap off.

22. When you see a Trout rise, cast the Fly behind him, and then gently draw it over his head, and, if of the right colour, you scare him not, he's your own.

23. In casting the Fly do it always before you, so that the Fly may first fall upon the water (otherwise it will scare the Fish,) and as little of the Line with it as possible, and

without circling the water, though, if the wind be stiff, you will then be compelled to drown a great part of the line to keep the Fly in the water; and endeavour to have the Wind on your back, and Sun in your face if you can, but the windings and turnings of the River will render that impossible.

24. When you Angle in slow Rivers or still places with the Dub-fly, cast your Fly over cross the River, and let it sink a little in the water, and draw him gently back again, so as you break not the water, or raise any circles or motions thereon, and let the current of the River carry the Fly gently down with the Stream, and this is the best way in slow, slimy bottom Rivers for the Dub-fly.

25. Stand always as far off the bank as the line will give leave; for to Fish fine and far off is the great Rule in Fly Angling.

26. In Frost and Snow, or excessive cold weather in the Spring, Angle with the smallest Gnats, Browns and Duns you can make.

27. For stony, clear, crystalline Rivers, Flies generally are made with slender body and wings, but in dark, discoloured and full waters the contrary.

28. When you know not certainly what Fly is taken, or cannot see Fish rise, then put on a small Hackle, if the water be clear, but bigger, if something dark, until you have taken one, then order the matter as you are directed *cap.* 7. *sect.* 11.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXV.

Artificial Fly Angling.

I Did once determine to have wholly omitted any particular description of Dub-flies for the reasons already deliver'd in the beginning of the 34 Chapter of this Book. Yet I think it not amiss to insert a Catalogue that will serve as a Basis for any person with discreet variations and Observations to raise a superstructure for his own particular Country and use in any part of *England*; and will afford no mean light to the perfect understanding and attainment of the Art of Dub-fly Angling; which is as delightsome a way of Angling as any whatsoever, if the River you frequent be but plentifully stored with Fish: And I will begin with *February*, that being early enough for any Gentleman to enter on this Recreation, by reason of wetness and coldness of the weather: The first of *March* being commonly as soon as I ever begun to Angle, and *Michaelmas* day the time of the year I desist from that Sport.

Dub-

Dub-flies for February.

Little red brown

1. Is made of the Fur of the black spot of a Hogs Ear, (because there its softest) warpt on with red Silk, wings of the male of a Mallard almost white.

Palmer-Fly, or plain hackle

2. Is made with a rough, black body, either of black Spaniels Fur, or the whirle of an Estridge Feather, and the red Hackle of a Capon over all.

Silver Hackle

3. Made with a black body also, Silver twist over that, and a red Feather over all.

Great Hackle

4. The body black and wrapped with a red feather of a Capon untrimm'd, that is, the whole length of the Hackle staring out (for sometimes we barb the Hackle feather short all over, sometimes barb it only a little, and sometimes barb it close underneath) leaving the whole length of the Feather on the top or back

back of the Fly, which makes it swim better, and on a whirling round water kills great Fish.

Gold Hackle.

5. The body black, rib'd over with Gold twist, and a red feather over all, do's great Execution.

Great Dun

6. Made with Dun Bears hair, and the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard, near unto his tail, the very best Fly for this month, and makes admirable Sport.

Great blew Dun.

7. Dubbing of the bottom of Bears hair next to the roots, mixt with a little blew Camlet, the wings of the dark grey feather of a Mallard.

Dark brown.

8. Dubbing of the brown hair of the flank of a brindled Cow, and the gray feather of a Drake for Wings.

These Hackles are some for one Water and Sky, and some for another, and accordingly the size and colour are alter'd, and use a small Hackle if the water be clear, or a bigger if some-

ſomething dark, and when you cannot know certainly in this month or any other, what Fly is taken, put on a ſmall Hackle if the water be clear, but bigger if ſomething dark, and the firſt Fiſh you take, proceed with him as you are directed, *c.* 7. *ſect.* 11.

Dub-flies for March.

Uſe all the ſame Hackles and Flies with *February*, but make them leſs.

Little whirling Dun

1. Made of the bottom Fur of a Squirrels tail, and the wing of the grey feather of a Drake.

Early light brown.

2. Made either of brown of a Spaniel, or of hair of a red Cows flank with grey wing.

Whitiſh Dun

3. Made of the roots of Camels hair, wings of a Mallards gray feather.

Thorn-tree Fly.

4. Dubbing of an abſolute black, mixt with 8 or 10 hairs of Iſabella coloured Mohair, body

dy as little as can be made, wings of a bright Mallards feather; an admirable Fly, and in great repute for a killer.

Blew Dun.

5. Comb the neck of a black Greyhound with a small tooth Comb, and the Down that sticks in its Teeth is a fine bleu, wherewith Dub this Fly, the wings can scarce be too white, and its taken from the 10th. till the 24.

Little black Gnat

6. Is taken from the tenth, until almost the end of this month; made either of the Fur of a black water Dog, or the down of a young black water Coot, the wings of the Male of a Mallard as white as may be, the body as little as you can possibly make it, and the wings as short as body.

Later bright brown.

7. Taken from the 16 to the 10th of *April*, Dubbing to be got out of a Skinner's Lime-Pits, and of the hair of an Abortive Calf, which the Lime will turn to be so bright as to shine like Gold, wings of the feather of a brown Hen is best.

Green

Green tail.

Is taken in *March* and part of *April* made of pale brown fur got from a Spaniels ear, and a little Willow green Wooll mixt at the tail, wings of the feather of a Shepstares Quill.

Dub-flies for April.

All the same Hackles and Flies that were taken in *March* will be taken in *April* also, with this distinction only concerning the Flies, that all the browns be lapt with red Silk, and the Duns with yellow Silk.

Small bright brown

1. Made of Spaniels Fur with a light grey wing in a bright day and clear water is very well taken.

Little dark brown

2. The Dubbing of dark brown and Violet Camlet mixt, grey feather of a Mallard for wings.

Great whirling Dun

3. From the 12 of this month is taken all the month through about mid-time of the day, and

and by Fits from thence to the end of *June*, and is one of the best Flies we have, its commonly made of the Down of a Fox Cub, which is of an Ash-colour at the roots next the skin, and rib'd about with yellow Silk, the wings of the pale grey feather of a Mallard.

Violet Fly

4. From the *6th.* to the *10th.* of this month is taken, made of a dark violet stuff, Mallards grey feather for Wings.

Yellow Dun

5. Dubbing of Camels hair and yellow Camlet, or yellow Wool of a Blanket well mixt, (and some add Bears hair) and a white grey wing.

Horse-flesh Fly

6. Is taken best in an Evening, and Kills best from 2 hours before Sun-set until twilight, is taken the month through: Dubbing of blew Mohair with Pink coloured, and red tammy mixt, a light coloured wing and a dark brown head. It begins to be taken best about the 20 of the month.

Dub-

Dub-flies for May.

All the same Hackles and Flies, the Hackles only brighter and the Flies smaller that are taken in *April*, will also be taken in *May*, and likewise all Browns and Duns.

Next follow 7 of the very prime Flies for *May*, and indeed of all the year, especially the Green-Drake and Stone-fly, and then 9 of small esteem in comparison with the first seven, yet such as will kill Fish too.

1. Dun-cut

Is the first of the seven, its Dubbing is of Bears Dun, with a little blew and yellow mixt with it, a large Dun-wing, and 2 horns at the head, made of the haits of a Squirrell tail, and is a very killing Fly.

The next are 4 Flies which contend for the Title of *May* Fly, but the Green Drake which is taken both in Streams and Stills, and that at all hours of the day whilest in season, and the Stone-fly taken early and late, but not very well in the mid-time of the day, have the preeminence of the black *May* Fly, and little yellow *May*-fly by the general vogue of Anglers.

2. Green Drake.

At full maturity his Wings stand high and closed exact upon his back like the Butter-fly, and his motion in flying is the same, his body is in some of a paler, in others of a darker yellow, (for they are not all exactly of a colour) rib'd with rows of green, long, slender and growing sharp towards the tail, at the end of which he has 3 long, small whisks, of a very dark colour, almost black, and his tail turns up towards his back like a Mallard; from whence he has his name of Green-Drake.

Green Drakes Season and Dubbing.

He comes in about *Mid-May*, and is taken until *Midsummer* in Mountainous stoney Rivers, far earlier in others, and that at all hours, as aforesaid, and is made thus, *viz.* on a large hook the Dubbing Camels hair, bright Bears hair, the soft Down Combed from a Hogs Bristles, and yellow Camlet well mixt together, the body long and rib'd about with green Silk, or rather yellow Silk waxt with green wax, the whisks of the tail of the long hair of Sables or Fitchet, and the wings of the white grey feather of a Mallard died yellow, which is died thus, *viz.*

Take the Root of a Barberry Tree, and put to it woodyvis, with as much Allum as a Walnut,

nut, and boil the feathers in it with Rain-water, and they will be of a very fine and curious yellow. You may try whether the inner bark of a Crab-tree boil'd with some Allum in water will not do the same, and make a fine yellow, which I am informed it will, but never experienced it.

3. Stone-fly described.

Lies under hollow Stones at the Rivers side, his body is long and pretty thick, and as broad at the tail almost as in the middle, his colour a very fine brown, ribb'd with yellow, and much yellower on the belly than on the back, he hath 2 or 3 whisks also at the tag of his tail, and 2 little horns on his head, his wings when full grown are double, and flat down his back of the same colour, but rather darker than his body, and longer than it, though he makes but little use of them, for he rarely flies though often swims and paddles with several feet he has under his belly upon the water without stirring a wing; but the Drake will mount Steeple-height into the Air, tho' hee's found upon Flags and Grass too, and indeed every where high and low near the River.

Stone-flies Season.

The Stone fly comes in about middle of *April*, and continues until the end of *June* or

Midsummer, Its proper for Streams rather than Stills, and taken best early and late, but not so well at mid-time of the day; if there be a whistling wind then it may be taken in the deep stills of the River; its a very killing Fly, and made of Bears Dun with a little brown and yellow Camlet very well mixt, but so placed that the Fly may be more yellow on the belly and towards the tail underneath than in any other part, and you are to place 2 or 3 hairs of a black Cats beard on the top of the hook in the arming, so as to be turn'd up when you warp on your Dubbing and to stand almost upright, and staring one from another, and note that the Fly is to be rib'd with yellow Silk, and the wings long and very large, of the dark grey feather of a Mallard; or (which I intend to try) of the brown soft feather of a Kite.

Stone-flies dubbing.

4. Black May Fly.

Is the next *May* Fly, made with a black body of the whirle of an Ostridge feather rib'd with Silver twist, and the black Hackle of a Cock over all, and is a killing Fly, but not to compare with the green Drake and Stone-fly.

5. Little yellow May-fly.

Being the last of the 4, of the same shape of the green Drake, but a very little one, of a bright

bright a yellow as can be seen, made of a bright yellow Camlet, wings of a white grey feather died yellow.

6. Grey Drake

Is in all shapes and dimensions perfectly the same with the green Drake, but quite almost of another colour, being of a paler and more livid yellow, and green and ribb'd with black quite down his body, with black shining wings, diaphanous and very tender, Cobweb like, it comes in, and is taken after the green Drake, and in a Dub-fly kills very well. Its made of the whitish Down of a Hogs bristles, and black Spaniels Fur mixt, and rib'd down the body with black Silk, the whisks of the tail of the hairs of the Beard of a black Cat, and the wings of the black grey feather of a Mallard.

7. Camlet Fly.

Is taken from *Mid-May* unto the end of *June*, is in shape like a Moth with fine Diaped or water wings, and made of a dark brown shining Camlet, rib'd over with very small light green Silk, and the wings of the double grey feather of a Mallard, and is a very killing Fly for Graylings and small Fish.

☞ I had thought here to have put a period to the Description of any more Flies for *May*, yet since there are 9 Flies of small esteem

comparatively with the foregoing ; I will insert them for the Readers sake, who is at liberty either to use or reject them, as his fancy is.

8. Curlip Fly,

Dubbing ravell'd out of some blew stuff and lapt about with yellow Silk, the wings of a grey Mallards feather.

9. Yellow Palmer,

Made with a yellow body, rib'd with Gold twist and large Wings of a Mallards feather died yellow, with a red Capons Hackle over all.

10. Black Fly,

Dubbing of a black Spaniels Fur, and the wings of a grey Mallards Feather.

11. Light Brown,

Made of a light brown with a slender body, the dubbing twirled upon small red Silk and raised with the point of a Needle that the inner rows of Silk may appear through the wings of the grey feather of a Mallard.

12. Little Dun,

Dubbing of Bears Dun whirled upon yellow Silk, wings of a Mallards grey feather.

13. White Gnat,

With a pale wing and a black head.

Peacock

14. Peacock Fly,

Body made of the wool of a Peacocks feather, with a red head, and wings of a Mallards feather.

15. Coltt Lady,

A little fly, the body of a Peacocks feather, the wing of a red feather, or strips of the red hackle of a Cock.

16. Coltt turd fly,

Dubbing light brown and yellow mixt, the wings of the dark grey feather of a Mallard.

Dub flies for June.

From the 1 to the 12 are taken the Green-Drake and Stone-fly, and all the month the Camlet fly.

1. Owl-fly

Is taken from the 12 to the 24 late at night, dubbing of a white Weesels tail and a white grey wing.

2. Barm-Fly,

Dubbing of the fur of a yellow dun Cat, and a grey wing of a Mallards feather.

3. Purple Hackle,

Made with a Purple body, whipt about with a red Capons feather.

4. Purple Gold Hackle,

Made with a Purple body, Gold twist over that, all whipt about with a red Capons feather.

5. Flesh fly.

Dubbing of black Spaniels Fur and blew wool mixt, and a grey wing.

6. Little flesh Fly.

The body made of the whirle of a Peacocks feather, and the wings of the grey feather of a Drake.

Peacock Fly.

7. The body and wing both made of the feather of that Bird.

8. Ant-fly.

Dubbing of brown and red Camlet mixt, with a light grey wing.

9. Brown Gnat.

With a very slender body of brown and violet Camlet well mixt, with a light grey wing.

10. Little black Gnat.

Dubbing of black Mohair, and a white grey wing.

11. Green Grashopper.

Dubbing of green and yellow wool mixt, rib'd over with green Silk, and a red Capons feather over all.

12. Dun Grashopper.

The body slender, made of Dun Camlet and a Dun Hackle at top.

13. Brown Hackle.

Made of the light brown hair of a fat Colt, with a red hackle over all, wraps with Ash-coloured or hair coloured Silk.

Dub-

Dub-flies for July.

All the small Flies taken in *June*, are also taken this month.

1. Badger-Fly.

Dubbing of the soft brown Fur of a Badgers skin (that has been tewed in the Skinners Lime-Pits), twirled upon red Silk, with a red head and a sad grey wing of a Mallards feather, an excellent Fly for this month in many Rivers, its also taken in many Rivers in *March* and *April*.

2. Orange Fly.

Dubbing of Orange Wool, and the wing of a black Feather.

3. Little white Dun.

Body made of white Mohair, and the wings blew of a Herons feather.

4. Wasp-fly.

Made either of dark brown dubbing, or else the Fur of a black Cats tail, rib'd about with yellow Silk, wings of the gray feather of the Mallard.

5. Black Hackle.

Body made of the whirle of a Peacocks feather and a black hackle feather on the top, there is also another made of a Peacocks herle without any wings.

6. Shell-fly.

Dubbing of yellow green *Jersy* Wool, and a little white Hogs hair mixt.

Black

7. Black blew Dun,

The Dubbing of the Fur of a black Rabbet mixt with a little yellow, the wings of the feather of a blew Pidgeons wing.

Dub-flies for August.

First, all the same Flies with *July*, also all browns and duns are taken that were taken in *May*.

1. Late Ant-Fly,

Dubbing of the black brown hair of a Cow, some red warpt in for the tag of his tail, and a dark wing: a killing Fly.

2. Fern-Fly,

Dubbing of the Fur of a Hares neck that is of the colour of Fern or Brackin, with a darkish grey wing of a Mallards feather: a killer too.

3. White Packle,

The body of white Mohair, and wrapped about with a white Hackle feather.

4. Party long Legs,

The body made of Bears Dun and blew wool mixt, and a brown hackle feather over all.

Dub-flies for September.

This month the same Flies are taken that were taken in *April*, and also the

1. Camel Dibton Fly,

The Dubbing pull'd out of the Lime of a Wall whipt about with red Silk, and a darkish

ish grey Mallards feather for wings.

2. Late Badger Fly

Made of the black hair of a Badgers skin, mixt with the yellow softest Down of a Sanded Hog.

The same Flies are taken in *October* that were taken in *March*.

Thus have I inserted a Catalogue of about 65 Flies proper for Trouts, Graylings *and* Salmon smelts *in Mountainous, Stony Rivers, which although the List be large and numerous, yet 20 of them will serve all the year for almost any River.*

I had almost forgot to acquaint the Angler, That those very Flies that use to appear about and on the water in one month of the year, may the succeeding year come almost a month sooner or later, as the same year proves colder or hotter; for Sun-shiny weather and warm Springs brings them earlier, but in cold weather they are later. Sometimes Fish change their Fly (but not usually) once or twice in one day, but ordinarily they seek not for another sort of Fly, till they have for some days even glutted themselves with a former kind, which is commonly when those Flies are near Death and ready to go out; for Fish contemn them until the Flies be at the best, and have the greatest appetite for them when most plentiful, and when that sort grow old and decay, and another kind or sort cometh in abundantly then they change.

Its

Its very good to Dib in the evening of a hot day which may be performed either with natural or artificial Flies.

CHAP. XXXVI.

Angling for Trout with a Menow or Loach.

How to Angle for the Trout with a Menow or small Loach.

YOU may Angle with a Menow or small Loach thus, to be baited on a large sized hook, *viz.* put the hook in at his mouth, and out at his Gill, then having drawn the hook 2 or 3 inches beyond, or through his gill, put it again into his mouth, and the point and beard out at his tail, then draw your line streight, so that the body of the Minnow will be almost streight on the hook; and close his mouth that no water get in, which you must avoid, or you may stitch up his mouth, or you may (when you set on the hook) fasten some bristles under the Silk leaving the points above a Straws breadth and half, or almost half an inch standing out towards the line, which will keep him from slipping back; this done try how it will turn by drawing it cross the water or against a Stream, and if it do not turn nimbly, then

turn

turn the tail a little to the right or left hand, till it turn quick, otherwise you'l catch nothing; You must also have a Swivel or Turn (which makes the Menow play better, and preserves the Line from snarling by turning) placed about a yard or more from the hook; you need no Lead on your Line, you must continually draw your bait up the Stream, within half a foot or a foot of the superficies of the water. In the same manner Angle with a small Loach or Bullhead his Guil Fins cut off.

CHAP. XXXVII.

Various ways of Angling for Pike.

The several ways of Angling for the Pike.

TRowling for Pike is very pleasant, and the Trowl may be bought ready made, only let it have a Winch to wind it up withal.

Trowling tackle.

For this Fish your tackle must be strong, your Rod must not be very slender at the top, where you must place a small slender ring for your Line to run through. Let your Line be Silk for at least 2 yards next the hook, and the rest 4 or 6 folds of the very best and neatliest spun Hemp Yarn and curiously twisted 16

yard

yards long, your hook double and strongly armed with Wire for above a foot, then with a Probe or Needle you must draw the wire in at the Fishes mouth and out at his tail, that so the hook may lye in the mouth of the Fish, and both the points on either side; upon the shank of the hook fasten some Lead very smooth, that it go into the Fishes mouth and sink her with the head downwards, as though she had been playing on the top of the water, and were returning to the bottom, your bait may be Gudgeon, Menow, small Trout, small Roch or Dace, small Salmon smelts, Perch, his uppermost back-fins cut off, Loach or sometimes a Frog, your hook thus baited, you must eye the tail of the Fish close and fast to the Wire, or else with drawing to and again, the Fish will rend off the hook, or which is neater, with a Needle and strong Thread stitch through the Fish on either side of the Wire, and tie it very fast.

How to bait the Pike hook.

How to Troul.

All being thus fitted, cast your Fish up and down in such places as you know Pike frequents, observing still that he sink some depth before you pull him up again, when the Pike cometh (if it be not sunk deep) you may see the water move, at least you may feel him, then slack your line, and give him length enough to run away to his Hold, whether he go directly, and there pouch it, ever beginning

ning (as you may perceive) with the head, swallowing that first, thus let him lie until you see the line move in the water, and then you may certainly conclude he hath pouched the bait, and ranged abroad for more, then with the Trowl wind up your Line (which should always be 16 or 18 yards long at least) till you think you have it almost streight, then with a smart jerk hook him, and make your pleasure to your content.

Some use no Rod at all, but holding the Line on links on their hand, using Lead and Float.

Others use a very great Hook with the Hook at the tail of the Fish, and when the Pike cometh they strike at the first pull.

Others use to put a strong String or Thread in at the mouth of the bait and out at one of the gills, and so over the head, and in at the other gills, and so tye the bait to the hook, leaving a little length of Thread or String betwixt the Fish and Hook, that so the Pike may turn the head of the bait the better to swallow it, and then as before, after some pause, strike.

Some use to tie the bait hook and line to a bladder or bundle of Flags or Bullrushes, fastning the line very gently in the cleft of a small stick, to hold the bait from sinking more than (its allowed length) half a yard, and the stick must be fastned to the Bladder or Flags, to which the Line being tied, that it might easily unfold and run to its length, and

so

so give the Pike liberty to run away with the bait, and by the Bladder or Flags recover their Line again; you must observe this way to turn off your Bait with the Wind or Stream that they may carry it away, or some use (for more sport, if the Pike be a great one, and in a Pond) to tie the same to the foot of a Goose, which the Pike if large will sometimes pull under water.

Angling for Pike at Snap.

When you Fish for the Pike at Snap, you must give him leave to run a little, then strike, but be sure strike the contrary way to that which he runneth; a double Spring hook is principally if not only useful in this way of Angling, and much to be preferred before all other hooks, for the Pike will usually hold the bait so fast in his Teeth that you may fail to pull it out of his mouth and also strike him, whereas with a Spring hook though he hold it never so fast, the Wire will draw through the bait, and so the Spring will open, and you will very frequently hook him on the out-side of his mouth: Angling with the Trowl is a surer at least a more easy way for a Learner to practise (who wants an instructer) than the Snap, besides the Snap is chiefly useful to take a Pike, which often pricking with the Trowl hath made wary and cunning (for one that hath not been scared will swallow the bait boldly) such an one is taken best at Snap.

How to bait for the Pike.

In this way of Angling, put on your bait, may make a hole with the point of your hook or Probe in the Fishes side as near the middle as you can, put in your armed wire, and draw it out at the mouth, and with a Needle and Thread sew up the Fishes mouth.

Others use the Probe to draw the arming wire under the skin only (not the Ribs by any means) and out at the bone behind the gills, then again under the gills & out at the mouth: this latter way is much better, because there is only the skin to hinder the drawing and piercing of the hook, whereas the former only, if the Pike hold fast (as commonly he doth) all the Flesh on the out-side of the Fish will be drawn into a heap or lump, so thick that the hook (except very large) can hardly reach through it to pierce the Pikes chaps.

Rules for Pike Angling.

1. After he hath taken your bait, if he move slowly and make no stop, give him time, and you'l seldom miss him.

2. Or, if he lie after he hath taken the bait (as sometimes he will) gently move your rod, to try which way his head lieth, if you cannot discover that, then strike directly upwards, otherwise you may (instead of hooking him) pluck the bait out of his mouth.

3. If he take it upon the top of the water, and lie still, you see which way his head lieth, and may order your self accordingly.

4. At the Snap your Tackle must be stronger than for the Trowl, in regard you must strike much more forcibly.

5. At Snap you must give a lusty Jerks one after the other, and be sure you ever strike contrary to the way his head lieth, least you pull the bait from him only.

6. Fasten your swivel to the end of your Line, and hook your armed Wire upon the Swivel.

7. For the Snap cast a piece of lead hollow, and so wide as to go over the wire and the end of the hook, which you draw within the Fishes mouth, let it lie there to sink his head downwards, make it so rough that it slip not out, or sew up the Fishes mouth, which is better than to place the Lead upon the Line (as some use) for the Lead will often slip further, and also entangle the bait and line together.

8. Both at Snap and with Trowl cut away one of the Fins close at the gills, and also behind the vent, another on the contrary side, the bait will play better.

9. In casting with Trowling or at Snap, be sure to raise your hand a little when you see the bait ready to fall into the water, this will prevent that the bait dash not violently into the water in its fall, which affrights the Pike (tho he be a bold Fish) when it falls behind and near unto him.

10. Make your Lead for the Trowl four square, and much thicker and shorter than most

most use, the square will keep the hook in the same place as you set it, and the thick short Lead sinks him with his head downwards, so that he will not shoot sloopwise, as he doth when the Lead is long.

11. Join your wire links together, with a Steel Ring; the bait will play and sink better; if it lye only in the baits mouth, it will not entangle in the line so often.

12. A larger bait doth more invite the Pike, but a lesser takes him more surely, as soonest gorged, and the hook certainly taken into his mouth both at Snap and Trowl.

13. Use a large white Menow put on with the hook in his mouth; Angle with him for a Pike, as you do for a Trout, and let your hook be small, use not a great hook with a small bait.

Angling for Pike with a Minnow.

Get a single hook long and slender in the shank, put lead upon it, as thick near the bent as will go into the Menows mouth, place the point of the hook directly up the face of the Fish, let the Rod be as long as you can handsomely manage, with a line of the same length cast up and down and manage it as when you trowl with any other bait, if when the Pike hath taken it, he run to the end of the Line before he hath gorged it, do not strike, but hold still only, and he will return back and swallow it, but if you use that bait with a Trowl (some esteem it the very best for Pike.)

Snaring young Pikes or Jacks.

In *May*, *June* and *July* Pikes soar on the waters surface, or near it; then fix a Snare of Wire to the end of a strong Packthread, a yard and half long, and the other end of the Packthread to a long Pole or Goad; your Snare being open, you may observe Jacks to lye on the top of the water, and you may easily put it over them, and with a quick and smart jerk hoist them amain to Land.

Hooking Pikes in Ditches.

Or you may take a line of 7 or 8 foot, and thereunto arm a hook of the largest size, and lead the shank of the hook neatly, that the weight may guide it at pleasure, and you may strike the Pike with the bare hook where you please, when they go a Frogging into Ditches, in *May*, *June* and *July*, and you see them soaring on the superficies of the water.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

Of Fish-Ponds.

1. WHen the ground is dreined and the Earth made firm where the Ponds head must be, in that place drive in 2 or 3 rows of Oak or Elm-Piles, and lay Faggots of smaller Wood betwixt them, and Earth betwixt and above them, very well rammed; and then set another row of Piles as the first were,

which should be about the height you intend to make the Sluice or Flood-gate, or the vent conveying the over-flowings of your Pond in any Flood that may endanger the breaking of the Ponds Dam. The depth of the Pond should be about 7 foot, except at some one end or side it be very shallow, which is necessary for the preservation of the Spawn and Fry of Fish.

2. Plant Willowes or Alders about it, and cast in some Faggots in sandy places, not far from the side for Fish to Spawn on, and defend their Spawn and young Fry from Ducks, Herons, Frogs and Vermin; especially the Spawn of Carp and Tench.

3. Contrive the Pond so as the water may be continually renewed by some Rill or Rain-water, which inclines Fish both to breed and feed better, and makes them be of a better and pleasanter taste: So Pools that are large have gravelly bottoms and shallows for Fish to sport themselves on, make them purely tasted, so hollow banks, shelves, roots of Trees, preserves them from their Enemies, and Shades defend them in Summer from heat, and in Winter from cold. But many Trees growing about the Pond is ill for Fish; because the falling and rotting of the leaves makes the water stink and sowr, and the Fish ill tasted.

4. Carp loves gravelly, stony, sandy ground and breed best in Marle Pits, or Pits that have

clean clay bottoms, or in new Ponds, or Ponds that lye dry a Winter season, and in old Ponds full of mud and weeds, that are warm and free from wind, and have Grass growing on the bottom, or sides whereon in the hot months they'l feed and eat; and would likewise have Willows grow on the sides of the Pond; Tench and Eel love mud; cleanse and drain your Ponds every 3 or 4 years; letting them lye dry 6 or 12 months to kill the water weeds, as Water Lillies, Caudocks, Reat and Bulrushes that breed there, and as these die, sow Oats, and let Grass grow on the bottom and sides of the Pond, for Carps to feed on; and observe what kind of Fish either feed best, or thrive in the water of the respective Ponds and suit them accordingly.

5. Often feed the Fish by throwing into them Chippings of Bread, Grains, Curds, or the Entrails of Chickens, or of any Fowl or Beast that you kill for your self. So Garden Earth and Parsly thrown into a Pond, recovers and refreshes sick Fish. When you store a breeding Pond, put in 2 or 3 Males for one Female, but in a feeding Pond take no care whether there be more Males or Female Carps; others, and more rationally, advise to put in two Females for one Male into the breeding Pond.

6. Carps and Tench thrive and breed best when no other Fish is kept with them in the same Pond; for all other Fish darbur their Spawn.

7. Pike, Pearch and Roches may be put into one Pond, the two first will feed on the Roch, which is a great breeder, likewise put with them Dikes, Gudgeons, Minnows.

8. In Winter break the Ice, if a great Frost, and make several holes in the Ice, for Fish to breath at, and throw Bean-straw into the Pond, if you suspect a hard Frost to approach, and kill and destroy all Herons, Seagulls, King-Fishers, Water-Coots, Water-Rats, Water-Mice, Bitterns, and Otters that frequent the Pond, and suffer not much Shooting at Wild-fowl; for that affrightens, harms, and destroys Fish.

CHAP. XXXIX.

Manner of Dressing Fish.

ALthough I cannot pretend to the least Skill in Cookery, yet I will not deny, but that (as the times phrase it) I understand something of Eating, and very well know that the Angler when from Home, and would Pleasure his Friends with the fruit of his Recreations, frequently meets with such ill Housewives at ordinary Inns or Ale-houses (being often enforc'd to take up his quarters at such places for the conveniences of the River he Angles at) as renders by their ill Dressing,

the most dilicate Fish, not onely ingrateful to the Palate, but even nauseous to the Stomach, to obviate which inconvenience, I will here furnish the Angler (out of Mr. *Walton*, ingenious Mr. *Cotton*, and others) what the easiest, and best ways of dressing fresh water Fish; so that upon such stress, he may direct his Landlady so well, as (if shee'l observe him) neither to shame her self, nor spoil a good Dish of Fish, and I will first teach you how to dress the Chub: he being a Fish that has lost much reputation for want of good dressing.

How to dress a Chub.

1. First scale him, and then wash him clean, and take out his Guts, and to that end, make the hole little and as near to his Gills you may conveniently, and especially make clean his Throat from Grass and Weeds that are usual in it (for if that be not clean it will make him tast sowr) having so done, put some sweet herbs into his Belly, and then tye him with 2, or 3 splinters to a Spit, and roast him, basted often with Vinegar, or rather Verjuice and Butter, with good store of Salt mixt with it. This way drys up the fluid watry humor with which all Chubs do abound. A Tench may be thus drest like wise.

Another way to dress a Chub.

2. When you have scaled the Chub and cut of his Tail and Fins and washed him very clean, then chine or slit him through the middle, as a Sale Fish is usually cut, then give him

him 3 or 4 cuts or scotches on the back with your Knife and broil him on Charcoal, Wood-coal, or Coal that are free from Smoak, and all the time he's broiling bast him with best sweet Butter, and good store of Salt mixt with it, and to this add a little Thyme cut exceeding small or bruised into the Butter. Dreſt in this manner, the watry taſt is taken away for which many except againſt him: they are to be eaten the ſame day they are caught, and forget not to wash his Throat very clean, and his Body muſt not be washed after gutted; as indeed no Fish should be, but wiped clean with a linnen cloath. After this manner, you may dreſs other Fish as Trouts, Barbels, *&c.*

Another way to dreſs a Chub.

3. Set a Kettle over the fire with ſome Beer-Vinegar and Water, ſo much as will cover the Fish, and therein put Fennel and good ſtore of Salt, and when the water boils put in the Chub (he being firſt ſcald, gutted and throat made clean) and when boil'd enough, take him out and lay him on a board, for the water to run from him, having ſo reſted one hour, pick all the Fish from the Bones, and lay it on a Pewter diſh, which ſet on a Chafing-diſh of Coals, and put good ſtore of Butter to it, which when the Fish is very well hot, ſerve it up, and eat it as minced Veal.

To dreſs Trouts the common way.

4. First with a Knife gently ſcrape all the

ſlime

ſlime off them, then waſh them in Salt and Water, then gut them, and wipe them very clean with a linnen cloth, then flower them with Wheat-flower, and fry them very well in Sweet-butter, until they be brown and criſp, then take them out of the frying-pan, and lay them on a pewter diſh very well heated before then Fire; then pour off the Butter the Trouts were fryed in, into the Greaſe-pot, and not on the Fiſh; then fry good ſtore of Parſly and young Sage in other Sweet-butter, until they be criſp, then take out the Herbs and lay them on the Fiſh; but put not any of the Butter, wherein the Herbs were fried, on the Fiſh. Then beat up ſome Sweet-butter, with three or four ſpoonfuls of boiling hot ſpring-water (an Anchovis being firſt therein diſſolved, if you can eaſily have them) and pour it on the Fiſh, and ſerve it up, garniſhing your diſh with Straw-berry or other green leaves. This is the way to fry Trouts or Salmon, Smelts, under a Foot-long, or Graylings, Roches, Dates, Breams, or Gudgeons, their Scales firſt ſcraped off, and you may thus fry ſmall Eels, after they are ſlead, gutted, wiped clean and cut into pieces of four or five Inches long. You may alſo fry this way Peatches and ſmall Pikes, &c.

Graylings, Pearches, ſmall Pikes or Jakes, Roch, Eel, Gudgeon to fry.

The beſt way of dreſſing a Trout.

Take the Trout, waſh and dry him with a clean

clean Napkin, then open him, and having taken out his Guts, and all the Blood, wipe him very clean within, but wash him not, and give him three scotches with a Knife to the Bone on one side only. After which take a clean Kettle, and put in as much hard stale Beer (but it must not be flat or dead) Vinegar, and a little white wine and water, as will cover the Fish you intend to boil, then throw into the Liquor a good quantity of Salt, the rind of a Lemon, a handful of slic't Horse Radish root, with a handsome little Fagot of Parsley, Rosemary, time and Winter-savory. Then set your Kettle upon a quick fire of Wood, and let your Liquor boil up to the height, before you put in your Fish, and then if there be many, put them in one by one, that they may not so cool the Liquor as to make it fall; and whilst your Fish is boyling, beat up the butter for the Sawce with a Ladle full or two of the Liquor its boyling in, and being boyled enough, immediately powr the Liquor from the Fish, and being laid in a Dish, powr your Butter upon it, and strewing it plentifully over with shaved Horse-Radish, and a little pounded Ginger, garnish the sides of your Dish and the Fish it self with a slic't Lemon or two, and serve it up. In the same manner you may dress a Salmon-Moat under half a yard long: likewise a Grayling, Carp, Bream, and large Roch may be dreſt after the same manner

Grayling, Carp, Bream, Roch, Pike, Pearh, Salmon-Moat,

ner, only they are to be scal'd, which a Trout never is, and that must be done very lightly and carefully with a Knife for bruising the Fish, also a Pike may be thus dreſt, the ſlime being firſt well ſcourd off with Water and Salt: ſo likewiſe may a Pearch be dreſt, but before you powr on the Sawce, blanch off the Pearches Skin.

To Dreſs Salmon.

6. You may fry pieces of Salmon, or a Chine of Salmon, as you are directed for the Trout, at Sect. 4. of this Chapter.

To Stew Salmon or other Fish.

7. Take a Salmon, draw it, ſcotch the back; put it whole or in pieces into a Stew-pan, and thereunto put ſome Beer-Vinegar, white Wine and Water, as much as will cover it, put alſo to it ſome whole Cloves, large Mace, ſlic'd Ginger, a Bay Leaf, a bundle of the tops of Roſemary, Time, ſweet Marjoram, winter Savory, add pick't Parſly, ſome whole Peper, Salt Butter, and an Orange in halves, ſtew all leiſurely together, and when well ſtewed, diſh them with carved Sippets, lay on the ſpices and ſlic'd Lemon, run it over with Butter, beaten up with ſome of the Liquor it was ſtewed in, garniſh the diſh with ſearſed Manchet, &c. Thus you may ſtew any other Fiſh, as Carp, Pike, Bream, &c.

The beſt way to boil a Carp.

8. Take a Carp (alive if poſſible) ſcour him and rub him clean with Water and Salt, but

but scale him not, then open him, and put him with his Blood and his Liver (which you must save when you open him) into a small Pot or Kettle. then take sweet Marjoram, Time and Parsly, of each half a handful, a sprig of Rosemary and another of Savory, bind them into two or three small bundles, and put them to your Carp, with 4 or 5 whole Onyons, twenty pickled Oysters, and three Anchovies, then pour upon your Carp, as much Claret Wine as will cover him; and season the Claret well with Salt, Cloves, bruised Mace, slic'd Nutmeg, and the rinds of Oranges and Lemons, that done, cover the Pot, and set it on a quick fire, till it be sufficiently boyled, then take out the Carp and lay it with the broth in the Dish, and pour upon it a quarter of a pound of good fresh Butter, melted and beaten with half a dozen spoonfuls of the Broth, the Yealks of two or three Eggs, and some of the Herbs shred; Garnish the Dish with Lemons and so serve it up. If you be not willing to be at the charges of the Wine, you may, in its stead, put good Sider, and for want of that, some white Wine, good Beer-vinegar and Water will serve very well, instead of the Claret, you may also omit the pickled Oysters and Anchovies, and it will, notwithstanding such omission, eat very well.

In the same manner you may dress other Fish, only you must for others omit the Blood and Liver: As Pike Bream, Trout, Pearch, Gray-

Grayling, &c. Those that have scales, being scal'd, and put them into the Liquor before it boyls.

The common way of boyling Fish, is to draw, scale them, if scales, and wipe them clean, and then to set over a Kettle with as much water as will cover the Fish, and to put therein some Beer-Vinegar, good store of sweet Fennel and Salt, and when the Liquor boils very well up, to put in the Fish, and when boyled enough, let the water run off, and lay them on a hot Pewter Dish, and serve them up with beaten Butter, and some shred Parsly boyled by it self.

How to Fry Eels.

9. First take the Eel, flea him, gut him, and wash him clean, then cut him into the lengths of three or four Inches a piece, then set over water in a skellet, and let it boyl, wherein you must put good store of salt, and some Fennel or Rosemary, when this water boils, put in the peices of Eel, and let them therein be almost half boyl'd, then take them out, putting them into a Cullendar, then flower and fry them, and proceed farther, as you are instructed to fry a Trout, at *Sect.* 4. of this Chapter for a Trout.

The best way of Dressing a large Eel.

10. First wash the Eel, (which should be a large one) in water and salt, then pull off his skin below his Vent or Navel, and not much farther: having done that, take out his guts

as

as clean as you can, but wash him not, but wipe him clean within with a linnen Cloth, and then give him three or four scotches with a Knife, then put into his belly and those scotches sweet Herbs (which are the tops of Rosemary, sweet Majoram, Winter-savory, stripped Time, and picked Parsly) an Anchovy and a little Nutmeg grated or cut very small, the Herbs and Anchovys cut small and mixed with good Butter and Salt; having done this, then pull his skin over him, all but his Head, which you are to cut off, to the end you may tye his skin about that part where his Head grew, and it must be so tyed as to keep all his moisture within his skin: and having done this, with Tape or Pack-thread tie him to a Spit, and Roast him leisurely, and bast him with Salt and Water till his skin breaks, and then with Butter, and having roasted him enough, let what was put into his belly be mixed with beaten butter for the sawce.

Note, That when you put the Herbs and Anchovy into his Belly, they are first to be cut very small before they be put into the Eels Belly and mixt with Butter and Salt, and if you omit the Anchovy, yet the Eel will eat well enough.

To roast Eels.

11. Take Eels, flea, gut, and wipe them clean, and cut them in pieces four or five Inches long, put them on a small spit crossways,

ways, and between each piece put some large sage leaves, or Bay-leaves: then roast, and baste them, and when enough, serve them up with Butter beaten up in 3 or 4 spoonfuls of boiling-water, and the yolk of an Egg or two, if you like Eggs.

Spitch Cock or broiled Eels.

12. Take a large Eel, splat it down the back, and joint-bone, being drawn, and the Blood washed out, leave on the Skin, and cut it in 4 pieces equally, Salt them, and baste them with butter, broil them on a soft Fire, and being finely broild, serve them on a clean dish with beaten butter.

Stewed Eels.

13. Draw them, flay them, and wipe them clean, and cut them in pieces 3 or 4 Inches long, and put them into a Posnet or Skillet with fair water, a little White-wine, Verjuice, or instead thereof Beer-Vinegar, as much as will well cover them, butter, some large Mace, Pepper, a quarter of a pound of Currans, Salt, two, or three Onions, three or foure spoonfuls of Yeast, and a bundle of Sweet-herbs. Stew all these together leasurely till the Fish be very tender, then dish them, and put to the Broth a quarter of a pound of Butter, pour it on the Fish, sipped it, and serve it up.

In like manner you may stew them in an Oven, cutting them in peices, and setting them at the end in an earthen pot, being first sea-

soned

stuffed with Pepper, Salt, Cloves, Nutmeg, sweet Herbs shopped small, (Currans, Butter) but instead of the Currans and Butter, some only put in a small spoonful of fair water, and some Cloves of Garlick, and so bake them and serve them in Sippets.

To Collar Eels.

Take large Eels, flay, draw and wipe them clean with a linen Cloth, part them down the back, and take out the back-bone, then take Thyme, Parsley, sweet Marjoram, and a little of the tops of Rosemary, mince them small, and season them with Nutmeg, Ginger, Pepper and Salt, then strew them on the inside of the Eels, then roll them up like a Collar of Brawn, and put them in a clean Linen Cloth, tie them hard, and boil them under with Beer, Vinegar, Water and Salt, but let the Liquor boil before you put in the Eels; when boil'd enough, take them out of the Liquor, and let them and the Liquor be cold, and put them in again, and you may therein keep them 10 days or more, and you may serve in either in Collars, or in round slices with Bawers of Vinegar.

To Roast a Pike.

1. First open your Pike at the Gills, and if need be, cut also a little Slit towards the Belly, out of these take his Guts, and keep his Liver, which you are to stred very small with Thyme, sweet Marjoram, and a little Winter Savory, to these put some pickled

Oysters and two or three Anchovies, both these last whole (for the Anchovies will melt, and the Oysters should not) to these you must add also a pound of fresh Butter, which you are to mix with the Herbs that are shred, and let them all be well Salted (if the Pike be more than a yard long) then you may put into these herbs more than a pound of Butter, if he be less, then less will suffice) these being thus mixt with a blade or 2 of Mace, must be put into the Pikes Belly, and the Belly sewed up, to keep all the Butter in his belly, if it be possible, if not, take as much of it as you possibly can, but take not off the scales, then you are to thrust the spit through his mouth out at his tail, then take 4, 5, or 6 Spit-sticks or very thin laths, and a convenient quantity of Tape or Filleting, these are to be tyed round about the Pikes body from his head to his Tail, and the Tape tyed somewhat thick to prevent his breaking or falling off from the Spit, let him be roasted very leisurely and basted often with Claret Wine and Anchovies and Butter mixt together, and also with what moisture falls from him into the Pan, when roasted sufficiently you are to hold under him (when you unwind or cut the Tape that ties him) such a Dish as you purpose to eat him out of, and let him fall into it, with the Sawce that is roasted in his Belly, and by this means the Pike will be kept unbroken and compleat, then to the Sawce

which

which was within, you are to add a fit quantity of the best Butter, and to squeeze therein the juyce of 3 or 4 Oranges; lastly, you may either put into the Pike with the Oysters 2 or 3 Cloves of Garlick, and take it whole out, when the Pike is taken off the Spit, or to give the Sawce a hogo, let the Dish (into which you let the Pike fall) be rubbed with it; the using, or not using the Garlick is left to your discretion.

15. Whensoever you do Butter for Fishes Sawce, let it be very well beaten up with 3 or 4 spoonfuls of boyling Spring water, and if you desire it to be thick, dissolve a Yolk of an Egg therein well beaten with the Butter, and if you desire the Sawce to be better relished than ordinary, put an Anchovy in the water, and let it dissolve before you beat up the Butter, or boil Parsly by it self, and shred it, and beat it up with the Butter and Water, and its a good Sawce. Trouts, Chubs, Carp, Bearch, Bream, Roch, Gudgeon and Grayling should be eat the very same day they are caught, else they are worth little.

Finally, let me tell you, That in the course of my Observations, I know amongst all sorts of Fish, none differ amongst themselves in taste more than Eels, for I have eat of them taken out of above 30 several Rivers, and amongst the rest of the *Thames*, *Severn* and *Trent* Eel, yet none that I ever met with, were to be compared for goodness (although not large) and

deliciousness of Taste to the Eels caught in a small Rivet in *Lancashire*, called *Irk*, which is composed of a small Brooks that have their confluence near unto *Middleton Hall*, where it assumes the name of *Irk* and thence descends through *Blakely* and *Crumpsall*, &c. to *Manchester*, where under *Chetham's Hospital*, it mingles its waters with the *Irwell*, and thereunto pays the Tribute of its Name. Neither are the Inhabitants on its Bank partial in their Judgments, by reason of their vicinity; but its highly applauded for its excellent taste, by persons meer Strangers, and such as had the estimation of curious Palats, and having often enquired of the Neighbouring People to it, what might be the reason, they have unanimously ascribed it to the numerousness of Fulling Mills that stand on that River, and say that the Fat, Oyl and Grease scowred out of the Cloth, make the Eels pallatable and fat, above other River Eels.

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Courteous Reader,

YOU may be pleased to take notice, That at the Sign of the Three Trouts in St. *Pauls* Church-Yard, on the North side, you may be fitted with all sorts of the best Fishing Tackle, by

John Margetts.